Dudley
CHRONICLE
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# MASSIVE HAUL OF ILLEGAL TOBACCO

Report by Jamie Brassington

**MORE than 100,000 illegal cigarettes and hundreds of packets of tobacco were seized during one year in Dudley and Sandwell**

The number of illegal tobacco products seized in Dudley doubled during 2016/17 – with 78,000 cigarettes and 519 packets of tobacco worth more than £16,000 – when trading standards swooped on shops. In Sandwell, 33,750 cigarettes and 2kg of tobacco were taken off shelves.

Trading standards said the products were either counterfeit – possibly including toxins that pose a risk to health – or had not had tax paid on them, denying the public purse thousands of pounds.

The figures show illegal cigarettes and tobacco being sold in Black Country shops continues to be a major concern.

Councillor Peter Miller, cabinet member responsible for trading standards at Dudley Council, said: "Our trading standards officers are doing some excellent work to clamp down on this issue and, rest assured, anyone selling illegal products could face serious penalties through the courts."

### Suspended

Five business owners have been taken to court, with one which was operating in Sandwell given a suspended prison sentence and 200 hours of unpaid work.

Dudley Council visited 168 premises in total, with the illegal haul of tobacco from April 2016 to March this year coming from a total of 10 premises.

Trading standards are continuing to crack down through a range of measures including spot checks and test purchases.

Councillor Miller said: "This is far from a victimless crime. Illegal tobacco trade creates a cheap source (of tobacco) for children and young people.

"While all tobacco is harmful, the illegal tobacco market – in particular the availability of cheap cigarettes – makes it harder for smokers to quit and remain smoke free."

He added: "The loss to the taxpayer means less money being spent on local communities, schools and the NHS."

Across the West Midlands, a total of 5.5 million illegal cigarettes and 645kg of hand rolling tobacco was seized in 2016/17. The haul was worth more than £2.5 million and the cost to the taxpayer £2m.

## HOWZAT FOR A MAYOR'S CHARITY FUNDRAISER

Preparing for the 10th charity match are, from left, Mayor Dave Tyler, Rita Pearce, club chairman Harilal Patel and Mohammed Hanif

CRICKET fans will be stumping up cash for a mayor's chosen charities at an annual match in Stourbridge next month.

The Mayor of Dudley's annual charity cricket match is in its 10th year and takes place on August 11, featuring teams of Dudley Council officers, councillors and charity supporters.

Teams of six will go head-to-head in a series of games with all proceeds going to those charities chosen by the mayor, Councillor Dave Tyler, which are Dudley Mind, YMCA and Dudley Alzheimer's Society.

The game, at Stourbridge Cricket Club, High Street, starts at 6pm and spectators are welcome. The club is also celebrating its 175th year.

Councillor Tyler said: "The annual cricket match is always a lot of fun and also a great way to raise money for three worthy causes.

"Stourbridge Cricket Club is a fabulous venue for the game and we very much appreciate their support for these charities. I hope to see as many people as possible on the night."

Among the councillors taking part are former mayors Mohammed Hanif and Steve Waltho.

Cricket fan Councillor Hanif helped to start the event in 2007 after a match between the club and councillors took place. The councillors played a junior side and were beaten, now it takes place between councillors and council staff.

Councillor Hanif is asking the public to come along on the day help to support the fundraising causes. He said: "We are looking for people to come along and support us, there will be a raffle and a bar."

BODY

## Police do not think death is suspicious

THE death of a man found near an area of water is not believed to be suspicious, police have said.

The area – near Bourne Street, Coseley – was cordoned off at around 8.30pm on Sunday following the discovery of the body.

West Midlands Police confirmed they did not believe anyone else was involved in the incident.

A force spokesman said: "The deceased is male and identification has not yet been established.

"His death is not thought to be suspicious."

ACCIDENT

## Woman, 81, is hurt in car crash

AN 81-year-old woman motorist was taken to hospital with injuries after a car crash in Kingswinford.

The woman, who was driving a Vauxhall Corsa, was involved in a collision with a BMW driven by a 54-year-old man on Stallings Lane, just before 11.30am on Sunday

She suffered fractures to her right arm and leg and experienced chest pain.

POLICE

## Man in fight for life after collision

A 62-year-old man was left fighting for his life after being hit by a car in Sedgley.

The man suffered a serious head injury when struck by an Audi A43 at 4.40pm on Friday on Bilston Street. He was taken to hospital where, at the time of going to Press, he was in a critical but stable condition. Witnesses should contact police on 101. The driver is assisting officers.

INSIDE
WONDERLAND IS ON THE WAY

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# Plaque will honour First World War hero

Pte Barratt died aged 22

A PLAQUE will be unveiled in memory of a Victoria Cross recipient from the Black Country – exactly a century after he was posthumously awarded the honour.

Private Thomas Barratt, who died during the First World War, will be honoured with the unveiling of a plaque at Coseley Memorial, Vicarage Road, today (Thursday).

Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Dave Tyler, will be joined by the High Sheriff of the West Midlands, John Hudson, Staffordshire County President of the Royal British Legion, Peter Matthews, and relatives of Mr Barratt at the ceremony.

The borough commemoration will include a short service led by Reverend Emma Stanford from Christ Church, Coseley.

Private Barratt, a soldier with the South Staffordshire Regiment, was posthumously awarded the VC for action at Passchendaele. His patrol came under fire from German snipers, which pinned down the patrol.

Private Barratt volunteered to cover the withdrawal of his comrades. Under heavy machine and rifle fire, he single-handedly held off the enemy, shooting at least six of them. Barratt, aged 22, almost made it back himself but was killed by a shell.

Councillor Tyler said: "It is a great privilege and an honour to be part of a special service in memory of a true hero, who gave his life whilst saving the lives of his comrades. The bravery of Private Thomas Barratt should never be forgotten and the memorial stone is a fitting tribute."

A block of flats in Batmanshill Road, Tipton, was also named Barratt Court after the young soldier in 2012.

# More pupils are being expelled from school

**THE number of pupils expelled from schools in the Black Country rose by more than a quarter in a year – a second successive increase – with Dudley the worst area.**

In total, 454 students in the Black Country and Staffordshire were ordered to permanently leave their school year 2015/16.

Persistent disruptive behaviour was the most common reason given but violent attacks on pupils and staff as well as drugs and alcohol misuse were also the basis of the decisions.

Across the region, it was Dudley with the highest rate of children expelled from its schools, 82 pupils – a rate of 0.17 pupils per 100. In Walsall the rate was 0.16 with 78 expelled. In Wolverhampton it was 0.15 with 63 pupils expelled, Staffordshire was 0.13 with 152 and Sandwell 0.14 with 79.

### Travesty

Dudley Council's cabinet member for children's services, Anne Millward, said she would be calling for action.

She said: "Any child expelled from school is a travesty. We need to get a grip of this, find out what measures can be taken to stop so many children being expelled.

"Kids should be in school to be educated, the fact they are expelled means they are losing out on education.

"I'd like to find out what more we can do to help particular groups of people. This is a real concern."

The statistics, released by the Department for Education, showed school bosses handed out almost 59,631 exclusions to pupils. Most were in Staffordshire – 17,304 – followed by Sandwell (13,117).

Nansi Ellis, of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said: "These figures make for sobering reading, particularly when we see the continuing disproportionate exclusion of pupils in poverty or with a special educational need."

## Black Country festival fun continues

It's party time! Sophie Webster and Stephanie Craig enjoying a sing-a-long at the Dell Stadium in Brierley Hill

THE Dell sports stadium was taken over by Black Country Festival fever as thousands of people turned out to join in the fun.

There was a funfair, food and craft stalls and live music at the Brockmoor and Pensnett Black Country Fun Day, described as the 'jewel in the crown' of the month-long festival, which celebrates the region's heritage.

Brockmoor and Pensnett ward councillor Judy Foster, who attended the fun day, said: "I would say this event has been the jewel in the crown of the Black Country Festival we really hope it can continue to be an annual event."

Thousands also attended the Brier Fair in nearby Brierley Hill, which included street entertainers and a fun fair.

The Black Country Festival will culminate with the Coseley Festival on Sunday, which will see live entertainment and a range of stalls at Castle Street, Roseville.

# MP demands truth over contaminated blood scandal

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin is demanding that the Government reveals the truth about the contaminated blood scandal that has left 2,400 people dead.

The Labour MP is supporting many other MPs in calling for a 'full, fair and lasting settlement' for victims after speaking with constituents who were infected by tainted blood products.

Former Health Secretary Andy Burnham claims there has been a cover up.

It came as another MP accused the Government of riding 'roughshod' over the wishes of victims by letting the Department of Health (DoH) be involved in the inquiry.

Labour MP Diana Johnson said allowing the DoH to be part of the probe was like 'asking South Yorkshire Police to lead an inquiry into the Hillsborough disaster'. She has called for a full independent inquiry.

Earlier this month Theresa May announced an investigation would be held into how thousands of haemophiliacs and others were given blood products infected with hepatitis C and HIV during the 1970s and 1980s.

Mr Austin, who is a member of the all-party parliamentary campaign on haemophilia and contaminated blood, said he believes the facts of the scandal have been covered up for years

# Property firm has invested £42m

PROPERTY, investment and management company London and Cambridge Properties made £42 million worth of acquisitions in the first half of this year

James Buchanan, investment director for Kingswinford-based LCP, said the increase in its portfolio across the UK demonstrated LCP's commitment to investing in industrial and retail sites.

"So far this year we have added another 400,000 sq ft of industrial and retail space to our portfolio and we continue to seek commercial property that we can add value to through our active asset management approach," he said. "Last year, we invested £98 million across 41 sites in the UK."

This year has seen the group acquire 18 sites, including Churnet Park, in Leek, Staffordshire.

# Supermarket jobs

ONLY a handful of jobs remained available at a supermarket in Sedgley ahead of its opening next month.

Asda has taken over the former Co-op in Sedgley and will open on August 14, having created 80 new jobs to join the 70 staff who have stayed on from Co-op.


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# Burglar is locked up for raids on six homes

A BURGLAR who snatched thousands of pounds worth of items from six homes and a garage has been jailed for three years.

Among the possessions stolen by David Whyte to fund his drink and drug habit was a watch given to one his victims by her late father.

The 25-year-old swiped car keys, a Galaxy tablet, a sat nav and a phone during his crime spree.

At Wolverhampton Crown Court, Whyte pleaded guilty to a burglary in Sedgley Road, Dudley, on March 17.

Mrs Sati Ruck, prosecuting, said the victim returned home to find items including cash and jewellery worth £5,500 had been taken. Whyte was caught on CCTV at the back of the property.

The court also heard about a second burglary committed by Whyte in nearby Woodcroft Avenue. He burgled the home while the homeowners were on holiday, where he caused £2,000 worth of damage"

Whyte, of Hallewell Road, Edgbaston, asked the judge to take five further burglaries into consideration when sentencing, including one at a home in Oakham Road, Dudley.

Mr Colin McCarraher, defending, said his client had had a troubled upbringing. He added: "He is not the brightest of men and like many others he fell foul of drink. He also developed a habit using ecstasy and M-Cat."

# School out forever in Coseley closure

A SECONDARY school in the Black Country has shut its doors for the final time.

Remaining staff left Coseley School last week, a month after the final group of pupils moved o n.

Dudley Council decided to close the school due to dwindling numbers and poor performance – although results did improve over the last academic year.

Parents started removing pupils from the school after the announcement last year that closure was due this summer, with many moving to Dormston School in Sedgley.

Coseley councillor Star Anderton said it was a sad day for the area.

Coseley School may be converted into a primary school.

# Homes in pipeline

SEVEN homes could be built along a busy road in Coseley.

Plans have been lodged to build the properties on Gorge Road, joining Birmingham New Road, in place of a bungalow that would be demolished.

# Financial probe at schools academy trust

A PROBE into an academy trust which runs three schools in Dudley has uncovered 'significant failings and weaknesses in financial management'.

The investigation into the DRB Ignite multi-academy trust – which runs Beechwood CE Primary in Dudley, The Bromley Pensnett Primary in Brierley Hill and Hob Green Primary in Stourbridge – also raised concerns about 'governance arrangements'.

Trust bosses have been warned that if they cannot meet imposed conditions then the Government could take over the running of the schools.

The review was sparked after allegations on financial issues at The Bromley Pensnett Primary last July.

Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) investigators visited the schools in February and 'identified a number of significant failings and weaknesses in governance arrangements that breach the Academies Financial Handbook'.

## Control

The review concludes: "Our work on site identified a number of significant failings and weaknesses in financial management and governance arrangements. The issues identified in the report need to be urgently addressed to ensure internal control arrangements within the trust are operating effectively and assure the safeguarding of public funds.

"The trust must undertake a review of governance arrangements, including the issues highlighted during our work and confirm in an action plan to ESFA how the required improvements will be managed."

Richard Martin, chairman of drb Ignite Multi Academy Trust, said: " The EFSA has issued drb Ignite Multi Academy Trust with a Financial Notice to Improve as a result of an financial audit in February of this year. Since receiving the draft report, drb Ignite Multi Academy Trust has made significant progress in addressing the areas needed for improvement. It has acted swiftly on a number of fronts, most importantly a root and branch review of its governance structures and financial controls. drb Ignite Multi Academy Trust is confident that it will meet and fulfil all compliance requirements."

# Councillors angry over 'second class' station

**A CONTROVERSIAL design for a smaller Dudley bus station that would see drivers reversing out of bays faces being rejected.**

Angry councillors say they will not accept the 'second-class' proposal put forward by the new Birmingham-based West Midlands Combined Authority, insisting they will only back a 'first-class design' for the town's bus station.

The design would see the number of stops halved and bus drivers reversing out of spaces.

Councillor David Stanley, a Dudley Council cabinet member who also sits on the transport committee at the West Midlands Combined Authority, said he was 'not in favour'. Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, a former regeneration chief in Dudley, said the plan would make the bus station smaller when the original idea was for it to be extended.

The Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) indicated it was ready to put £400,000 towards the scheme likely to cost of more than £1 million to improve the transport hub.

## Lounge

Under the current design, buses would park next to each other while passengers waited in a departure lounge. Drivers would then reverse from the stand before continuing on their journey.

An upgrade for the town's bus station was first mooted three years ago but a lack of funds and a desire to link bus services with the extended Midland Metro held up the project.

Councillor Stanley, cabinet member for transformation and performance at Dudley Council, said the design must be suitable and suggested more discussions were needed.

He explained: "There are more than 20 stands for buses now. What they are trying to introduce will reduce it to 11. I would rather see a first-class bus station than a second-class one that reduces stands by half. It is too small.

"There are first-class bus stations in Stourbridge and Wolverhampton and I am fighting for the same in Dudley."

# 'Phoenix' restaurant thanks firefighters

Manager Adam Thompson and chef Chris Barnett hand out breakfast as a 'thank you' to firefighters

IT'S like a phoenix from the ashes – those were the words used by firefighters who battled to save Hickory's Smokehouse in Wall Heath as it was engulfed by flames only 11 months ago.

The restaurant, which was almost totally destroyed by fire in August, has been completely rebuilt and remodelled – and is now open to the public again. On Saturday the venue welcomed back dozens of firefighters who were called to the blaze, caused by a faulty electrical appliance, and helped to tackle the inferno. Bosses also paid homage to the fire crews with a 'phoenix' painting taking pride of place.

Dannie Hinds, watch commander from Brierley Hill, said: "The fire is up there as one of the biggest I have dealt with. At one time their were 15 appliances here. What a tremendous job has been done in just under 12 months to bring it back to life."

Owner Neil McDonell said: "This is less of a relaunch, more like a total rebirth."

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Public meeting on travellers' camps

A PUBLIC meeting will take place after a series of illegal travellers camps were set up in the Black Country.

Councillors, officials and police will attend to speak with residents about their concerns. Dudley has experienced several site invasions this summer. Specialist cleaners had to be brought in to clear up after an illegal camp in Brierley Hill.

The meeting has been organised by Amblecote's Ccouncillor Paul Bradley. He said: "We had a blitzkrieg type of invasion a couple of weeks ago. Local residents are very unsettled." The meeting is at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on August 16 at 7pm.

## Church coffee morning invitation

A CHURCH is holding a coffee morning tomorrow (Friday) and all are welcome.

The Ebenezer Baptist Church, in St Andrew's Street, Netherton, is holding the event from 10am.

The church regularly holds coffee mornings on the last Friday of the month, held between 10am and 12 noon.

A spokesperson for the church said: "It's a nice, relaxed and friendly atmosphere, and everyone is welcome.

"Admission is free so why not pop along?"

## Doreen at Steve Bull charity ball

POP icons from the 1980s Go West and Black Country comedy character Doreen Tipton will star at an upcoming charity ball.

The Steve Bull Foundation event will also feature a four-course dinner, a charity auction and raffle.

Tickets cost £75 each, £700 for a 'silver' table for 10, £1,100 for a 'gold' table of 10, and £1,650 for a 'VIP Sponsor' table of 10.

The event will be taking place at the ICC in Birmingham city cenre on September 8.

To book call 0345 095 0024.

## Flats are proposed for fly-tipping site

A PLAN has been lodged to create new flats near Stourbridge town centre.

A two-storey block containing six two-bedroom flats and single studio flat is being proposed for a site at Worcester Street, Stourbridge, just off the town's ring road.

Developers says the project would be a good use of a site that has been a target for fly-tipping. The plans are to be considered by Dudley Council planners.

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## Crisis-hit Carillion in contracts win

STRUGGLING Black Country construction firm Carillion received some good news, after it won new support services contracts.

Its joint venture has been awarded the Defence Infrastructure Organisation's project Hestia soft facilities management contracts for the North of England and Scotland and Northern Ireland, which have a revenue value of £158 million for five years.

The Carillion joint venture will deliver services, including catering, retail and leisure, together with hotel and mess services. The North contract will employ around 1,500 people, covering 130 military establishment.

## Star's pub in line for top accolade

A MIDLAND pub part-owned by Stafford-born actor Neil Morrissey has reached the finals of the Great British Pub Awards.

The Men Behaving Badly star is one of a consortium who run The Plume Of Feathers in Barlaston, near Stone in Staffordshire, and their boozer has been shortlisted in the best partnership pub category. Drinkers at the pub can enjoy a pint of the actor's very own ale, Morrissey Blonde.

Morrissey and his co-owners took over the Plume, on the banks of the Trent and Mersey Canal, in 2015. The winners will be announced on September 7 at London's Hilton Hotel.

## Try your hand in art contest

THE deadline is nearing for artists in Dudley and Walsall to put forward their submissions for an art prize.

The Dawn Jones Art award invites people with experience of mental health to create artwork. Entrants must submit their work by Monday for a chance to win one of two £100 prizes. Fourteen shortlisted entries will be exhibited in August at Forest Arts Centre in Walsall and two winning entries will be displayed. Visit dwmh.nhs.uk/artprize

## Recruiters reach the peak of their fitness

STAFF from a Black Country recruitment firm are gearing up for the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge. Last year MET Recruitment, based in Dudley, launched MET's Year of Charity raising more than £2,500

On August 5 staff will take on the 24-mile trek, across three peaks all in a 12 hour time frame. Money raised will go to three charities.

# Festival going to get bigger and better

THE Black Country Festival will seek to expand further outside its Dudley heartland in future years, organisers have revealed.

Throughout this month events have been taking place to celebrate the Black Country with the flagship 'fun day' held in Dudley last Saturday.

While some are already held outside Dudley borough, organisers want to increase the number of activities available in Walsall, Sandwell and Wolverhampton.

Billy Spakemon, who helps organise and compere events, said: "Without doubt the day and the festival are growing year after year.

"Dudley has taken the mantle from the start and really it looks after itself. The work now is we have got to get it out into Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton and have a focal day in each, like the one held in Dudley town centre.

"We want as many people as possible to share in the festival and that is what we are looking at doing in the future."

Asked what makes the Black Country unique from other regions, Mr Spakemon said it was the friendliness of its people.

He added: "To quote a Londoner, he told me nobody ever spoke to him. When he decided to come here to do some work with Dudley College he got off the train, got a bus to Cradley and by the time he was in Dudley he knew everyone and their entire life stories.

"He felt welcome and that really sums it up. People here are straight as a die and will tell you like it is, but that is it then, move on."

# Tricksters claiming an elderly victim every day

By Richard Guttridge

**AT LEAST one elderly person was targeted every single day by rogue traders in Dudley in one year .**

A total of 369 complaints were made across the borough in 2016 about rogue traders and is estimated that these statistics are just the tip of the iceberg, perhaps as low as only five per cent of those actually targeted by crooks.

Now a crackdown has been launched by trading standards to tackle the growing problem.

The increased focus on fraudsters comes after crook Veronica Robinson was jailed for five and a half years in April for conning a 93-year-old blind man out of £250,000.

Trading standards teams will get more powers to prosecute tricksters and will visit more homes in a bid to protect vulnerable residents, who are increasingly becoming targets for criminals.

Extra staff will also be brought in to focus on financial crime as part of a £100,000 investment to bolster trading standards.

### Cruel

Councillor Peter Miller, trading standards boss at Dudley Council, said: "Our trading standards team has already done some amazing work helping safeguard vulnerable people and this extra funding will go a long way to extending that work.

"It is a cruel and heartless crime hitting the most vulnerable people in our society.

"This new crackdown will help target offenders before they strike, support people most at risk and pursue those criminals who con people out of thousands of pounds."

The extra cash will fund neighbourhood visits to vulnerable people.

## Skittles return after pub taken over

Managers Lesley and Stephen Roney outside the newly refurbished Queen's Head in Enville Street, Stourbridge

A 19th-century pub has been given a new lease of life after being taken over by new owners and refurbished from top to bottom.

The Queen's Head pub, on Enville Street, Stourbridge, was bought two months ago by locally based pub chain Black Country Ales.

The firm has invested a 'six-figure sum' into the pub, revamping the interior and bringing back a skittle alley, which had fallen out of use.

The pub is being run by Stephen and Lesley Roney, who are experienced in the pub industry. It reopened on last week.

Black Country Ales director Angus McMeeking said: "We have carried out a total refurbishment of the building, which is from the 19th century. It is a nice, historic pub. We have just tried to take it back to old, traditional ways."

"We have done a lot of work on a beer garden out the back, and former stable building is now a skittle alley and function room. We have redecorated the pub from top to bottom. We have opened up some old chimneys and put some traditional fire places in.

The pub offers selection of ales and ciders, including three from Black Country Ales' own brewery.

# Firms signing up for new celebration of business

BLACK Country companies are already flocking to take part in the region's first business festival, set to take place next spring.

The official festival website went live this week and firms were immediately signing up to host events aimed at spreading the word far and wide about the Black Country as a place to live, work, do business and invest.

The Black Country Business Festival is a joint venture between the local chamber of commerce and brand management company Associate Events, but the key is recruiting scores of companies from across the area to get involved and run events.

Alister De Ternant, managing director of Associate Events, said: "The uptake and response from local businesses has been phenomenal. We already know of around 35 events and have already had a number of official applications for the festival on the first day of the website starting up, which is an amazing result.

### Impressive

"What is already impressive is the spread of the programme so far. One of things that seems to be driving this is the pride people are showing in the Black Country, and the desire to promote it to people outside the region."

The festival has been launched online at www.blackcountrybusinessfestival.com, on Twitter @BlackCountryBF and on Facebook.

The aim of the two-week festival, from April 23 to May 4 2018, is for companies to show pride in the Black Country and attract investment.

## Rescue deal saves 60 jobs at foundry

AROUND 60 jobs have been saved at a Kidderminster aluminium foundry in a metals industry rescue deal.

They are among 550 people employed by the Amtek group in the UK, which has been bought out of administration by the Liberty House Group.

Headed by tycoon Sanjeev Gupta, Liberty has become a major force in the metals industry in the last few years, buying parts of Tata Steel and rescuing 1,000 Black Country jobs when it bought large parts of the collapsed Caparo Industries group.

It has now acquired a manufacturer of cast aluminium engine and vehicle components, buying trade and assets of Amtek Aluminium Castings (Witham) Limited and King Automotive Systems Limited (Amtek UK) for an undisclosed sum from PwC.

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# £600k fund set to boost Halesowen town centre

TRADERS in Halesowen have voted to launch a business improvement district (BID) in their town centre. The move could bring £600,000 of extra investment into the area.

Firms had until last week to vote on the Halesowen BID project and this week chairman of the scheme, Wayne Edwards, announced businesses had voted to back the scheme.

He said: "It's taken us nearly thee years of hard work and dedication, Halesowen will now become a business improvement district. Businesses across the region have voted in favour of the district and now the hard work begins in ensuring that, as an organisation, we offer the support and guidance necessary to help the town's businesses thrive.

"We have an exciting future ahead of us and I'm looking forward to sharing this new adventure with all of you."

It is the first town in the Dudley borough to have a business improvement district.

The scheme involves businesses joining forces to create a single company with each member paying a levy to form a pot of cash to be used to benefit the area.

Members decide together on how the extra cash could be spent. It can include funding special events, improving security, promoting the town or making it more attractive.

# Moon art marking Apollo 11 mission

A GIANT moon art installation has landed in the West Midlands and was installed to mark an anniversary of the Moon landings.

'Museum of the Moon' has been created by artist Luke Jerram and uses detailed imagery from NASA of the lunar surface to create a scale replica. It is on show at Thinktank, Birmingham's Science Museum, until August 20 and was put in place on Friday – 48 years after the landings by the Apollo 11 mission.

Measuring seven metres in diameter, the installation fuses lunar imagery, moonlight and surround sound musical composition created by award-winning composer Dan Jones.

It is the first time the touring artwork will be seen in the Midlands.

# Park party postponed

THE Love Stourbridge fun weekend at Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge was postponed due to bad weather and the family event run by local churches will now be held on August 26 instead.

# Government urged to shift rubbish heap

The huge pile of rubbish in Dudley

AN MP has urged the Government to step in to shift more than 2,000 tons of rubbish at a site in Dudley.

Ian Austin, MP for Dudley North, says it is 'completely unacceptable' that waste has been left to pile up on the site at Shaw Road.

Work had started to remove the waste from the private site but then came to a halt.

Mr Austin has called on Environment Secretary Michael Gove to ensure the massive mountain of rubbish is removed as soon as possible. He also urged Dudley Council, the police and tax authorities to take tougher action with those responsible for the site.

The Environment Agency estimates 2,000 tons of rubbish are piled up at the Rowanoak site.

Mr Austin said: "Local businesses and I are fed up with the time it is taking to sort this out. It's been dragging on for far too long and I want Michael Gove to get the Environment Agency to get a grip and sort it out much more quickly.

"Local businesses pay a fortune in business rates and it is completely unacceptable that they should have this huge mountain of rubbish and all the environmental problems it causes on their doorstep."

Mr Austin said the agency took enforcement action more than a year ago but 'only a tiny amount has been shifted and work has already stopped'.

Environment Agency environment officer Steve Rogers said: "Waste on the site of Rowanoak Waste, Shaw Road, Dudley, started to be removed by the landowner in June 2017 but has currently stopped. We are working with the landowner to rectify this situation as soon as possible."

# Hospital workers are urged to speak out

**HOSPITAL staff have been told they should not be afraid to speak up if there is a problem.**

New 'freedom to speak up guardians' have been appointed at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley to listen to any concerns staff have.

Bosses say the move is part of their drive to create a culture of honesty.

Quality lead Derek Eaves has been appointed a guardian to work alongside current guardian and deputy chief nurse Carol Love-Mecrow.

Hospital chiefs said they were keen to ensure staff were not afraid blowing the whistle could have a damaging impact for them.

They added it was crucial issues that could affect the way the hospital operates and health of patients were raised.

Diane Wake, chief executive of the Dudley Group NHS Trust, which runs Russells Hall, said staff needed to feel supported when raising a concern.

She said: "It is really important that staff feel supported to raise any concerns they may have and that we, as an organisation, promote open and honest conversations.

## Vital

"Feeling supported to speak up is vital in order to help us improve services for our patients and the working environment for other members of staff."

Ms Love-Mercrow added: "We have a clear raising concerns policy that says we want to hear about concerns, but my role gives staff an additional route.

"We will guarantee confidentiality and ensure staff are supported to raise issues which will be dealt with appropriately."

The appointments follow the recommendation of Care Quality Commission (CQC) chief Sir Robert Francis QC for every NHS employer to appoint a guardian.

Russells Hall follows other Black Country hospitals in making the step to try and improve communication with staff. New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton, Walsall Manor and Sandwell General, who have all created such roles.

# Ex-mayor hands £37k to charities

Mayor Dave Tyler with Mohammed Hanif, his wife Zabeda Khanam, Paul Johnson from the Friends of Alfie Johnson, Tracy McClymont of Dudley CIL and Jacqui Wilmore from Diabetes UK Dudley

A FORMER mayor of Dudley was welcomed back to the mayor's chamber to celebrate raising £37,000 during his year in office.

Current mayor Councillor Dave Tyler invited Councillor Mohammed Hanif back to the mayoral office, along with representatives of the three charities he helped, to honour his fundraising efforts during 2016-17.

Representatives from Friends of Alfie Johnson, Diabetes UK Dudley group and Dudley Centre for Inclusive Living went along to the mayor's parlour to receive an equal share of the funds raised. Each group received over £12,000.

Councillor Hanif said: "It was an honour to serve as Mayor of Dudley, alongside my wife Zabeda, and to be able to help raise funds for these charities so close to my heart. My wife and I would like to say a massive thank you to all the individuals and organisations that generously contributed."

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Road bridge to close for work

A BRIDGE on a main road through the Dudley borough will close for almost two months for 'long overdue' repair works.

The single-lane bridge on Highbridge Road over the Dudley Canal in Netherton was due to close on Monday and reopen on September 8.

The road bridge is on a main route to Merry Hill shopping centre and motorists have been warned they will face difficulties for the next few months.

A diversion will be in place taking drivers via Pedmore Road and Cinder Bank toward Dudley's bypass, Duncan Edwards Way.

## Golfers tee off for charity event

MORE than 80 golfers took to the fairways to raise thousands of pounds for charity at the annual sporting fundraiser staged by The West Brom at The Staffordshire Golf Club, near Wombourne.

The tournament was in aid of the Kaleidoscope Plus Group, a health and wellbeing charity, and a total of £5,500 was raised.

Staff from the West Brom were joined by business partners and suppliers, who formed 20 teams on the day. The competition was won by insurance broker AJ Gallagher.

## Nostalgic night of popular songs

AN evening of popular songs from the 1930s, 40s and 50s is being held in Sedgley.

A Song to Remember takes place at the Mill Theatre in Dormston School on August 17 at 7pm, Tickets are £12 on (01384) 816389.

Appearing in concert will be mezzo-soprano Tara Kelsey and tenor Joe Johnson with pianist Wayne Baddeley.

As well as songs made famous by stars like Mario Lanza and Frank Sinatra, there will be some Chopin piano favourites.

## Burger restaurant has a big Mac-over

A McDonald's restaurant in the Black Country is to undergo a revamp.

Customers will be able to use self-order kiosks at the branch on Birmingham New Road, Coseley, and table service will also be introduced.

Bob Beckett, who runs the restaurant, said: "Having already seen customers reacting positively to these changes in other restaurants, I am excited to hear what my customers in Coseley have to say."

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

# Working longer is a small price to pay

MAYBE I should be grabbing my banner and marching on parliament, but all I could manage was a weary groan when the "A-word" was used following last week's announcement that us 40-somethings will have to work an extra year to claim our state pension.

Shadow work and pensions secretary Debbie Abrahams said the fact that millions now in their 40s will have to work until 68 was "an astonishing continuation of austerity". Isn't everything, these days? But really, it isn't austerity at all, it is simply facing up to the inevitable.

When the state pension was introduced in 1908, it kicked in at the age of 70, and only 25 per cent of the population would live long enough to receive it. Indeed at the start of the last century, average life expectancy in the UK was 46, so those of us affected by the change now would have been on borrowed time.

Today, we can expect to live to about 80, and the number of people reaching the age of 100 is expected to rise from 6,000 today to 56,000 by 2050. So, in the near future, tens of thousands of pensioners will have been claiming for 35 years. That is clearly not sustainable.

As for those who protest "we've paid in to the system," a maths lesson wouldn't go amiss. If people really took out what they paid into their pensions, their retirement would be very short indeed. It is only because our pension payments are invested in the stock market – those "casino bankers" who are blamed for everything – that we get any meaningful payments at all.

Personally, I'm grateful for the fact that I will probably live longer than previous generations. And if working a year or two extra is the price we have to pay, then we really don't have much to complain about.

❒❒❒

NOT that there seems to be much sign of austerity in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, where it took no fewer than four council officials to issue a £150 fine to a five-year-old girl selling homemade lemonade in the street. They said the girl was breaching street trading regulations, and technically that may have be so. But in any sensible world, the local council would encourage such entrepreneurial flair, not reduce a child to tears.

The council has apologised and revoked the fine, but the damage is done. Isn't it amazing that while cash-strapped councils will shut libraries and museums, reduce bin collections and let the grass grow to balance the books, the cuts never seem to extend to jobsworths like these?

## Claim that some media would rather see Britain fail

Liam Fox is critical of the BBC over references to Brexit

Gary Lineker pay for year – TV licence fees from more than 15,000 homes

Jodie Whittaker is the first female Doctor Who. Now for female Dalek?

# Is everything now – despite Brexit?

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

TRADE Secretary Liam Fox says some parts of the media would rather see Britain fail than Brexit succeed: "I cannot recall a single time in recent times when I have seen good economic news that the BBC did not describe as "despite Brexit." Meanwhile, it is reported that the population of gannets on the sea cliffs of Yorkshire has shot up from 2,550 to 13,400. Despite Brexit.

REPORTING the rise in the gannet population, the RSPB hails it as a great breeding success, made possible by rich pickings of fish in the waters of Dogger Bank. Hang on. Aren't those our fish? At what stage does a "success" for the gannets become a threat to our cod and chips?

IF you haven't done the sums yet, it takes the TV licence fees from more than 15,000 homes to employ Gary Lineker at the BBC for a year.

THE joy of a Scouse accent. I caught a snippet of a telly interview with a sportswoman from Merseyside explaining how her team had to cope with "them Airedales." Hurdles, apparently.

JODIE Whittaker is the first female Doctor Who. Any suggestions for first female Dalek?

THE Advertising Standards Authority is outlawing gender stereotypes. This new piece of social engineering will ensure there will be no daffy housewives and no kitchen-incompetent husbands appearing in adverts. The harmless amusement known as the battle of the sexes has entertained humankind ever since the first caveman burnt the first mammoth burgers and the first princess reversed her chariot into the river. But no more. As the ASA spokesperson explained grimly: "We know that depicting gender stereotypes in ads has the potential to reinforce expectations as to how groups or individuals should look or behave because of their gender - and that can have a potentially harmful effect." Interestingly, the author of the ASA's mirthless diktat is one Ella Smilie but I guess we're not supposed to laugh at that, either.

YOU would think, would you not, that the most fervent gender campaigns would involve the most blatant discrimination? Not so. Britain has about 40,000 registered midwives but barely 100 of them are male. And yet I hear no shrill protests and see no banners unfurled. A mystery, innit?

AMID thunderous volleys of brilliant reviews, the new Christopher Nolan film Dunkirk is released. No movie can cover every story from the 1940 evacuation and here's one you won't find in Nolan's epic, or in any written account I have seen. It is the tale of the Sixth Battalion of the South Staffordshire Regiment. None of these Black Country Territorials would claim to be the bravest or the most dashing of soldiers sent over to France. They knew they had been well and truly beaten by the advancing Germans. Yet none of the many survivors I have interviewed over the years recalled any panic or pushing on the beaches. On the contrary, these part-time soldiers were well led and bound together by a strong community spirit. The secret, as they waited for the boats, was to keep the men busy and prevent them becoming defeatist. So even as the bombs fell, the South Staffs officers and NCOs organised a sports day. A pair of abandoned motorcycles were commandeered and used in races up and down the beach. It must have been a bizarre interlude but stragglers arriving from other units sensed the cohesion of this battalion and attached themselves to it. Which is why the Sixth Battalion claimed the distinction of being the only unit of the British Army to bring more soldiers out of France than it took in.

RESEARCHERS in Exeter and London claim that doing a daily word game such as a crossword, can keep the brain young. What, even those of us who struggle for hours with "Six letters - One whose leader goes out every morning"? Eventually I cracked it: "Editor."

A READER shares the nation's irritation over people who start sentences with "So . . ." but says he's even more angered by politicians who begin their answers with "Look . . ." The ones that infuriate me are the interviewees who, when faced with a killer question, reply: "You know, the question we ought to be asking is . . ."

AS the first contracts are announced, here's an intriguing question. Why did we never have a referendum on HS2? Simple. Because the powers-that-be knew 90 per cent of the British public would vote against it. We love our countryside. We see no reason to arrive in Birmingham 20 minutes earlier. We don't see the point of a railway with hardly any stations. HS2 is a triumph of big money over democracy and our grandchildren will think we were mad. Not mad, kids. Just disenfranchised.

TALKING POINT

# The sticky wicket of sexism in sport

CONGRATULATIONS to England's women cricketers who won the world cup at the weekend. Can any of them get into the men's Test side?

But where are the scantily clad pictures of captain Heather Knight, wearing just cricket pads with a bat covering her modesty?

No? Well, here's a 21st century idea. Maybe they just want to be treated as sportswomen and recognised for their achievements on the field of play.

I raise the issue as it seems sexism, particularly in sport, has reared its head again.

It took an age for the powers-that-be to decide women tennis players were worthy of being awarded the same prize money as their male counterparts – despite playing a maximum of three set games rather than five – so it shouldn't take Andy Murray to point out that Sam Querry was the first MALE US player to reach the Wimbledon semi-final in however many years.

Former champ John McEnroe claimed Serena Williams, one of the greatest there has been, would only be in the top 700 in the men's rankings ("you can't be serious?").

I am all for equality and giving credit where it is due, so if a woman is as good at their job as a man they should be similarly recompensed, this coming at a time when the BBC announces only a third of its 96 highest earners are women.

But they can't have it both ways.

Female golfers are apparently angry at a new dress code, introduced by the Ladies' Professional Golf Association which bans them from wearing clothes with plunging necklines and revealing skirts.

Breaching the code could end in a 1,000 dollar fine. So it seems they want to be objectified as well as treated like serious athletes.

Heather Daly-Donofrio, LPG tour communications and operations officer, said: "The dress code requires players to present themselves in a professional manner to reflect a positive image for the game."

Quite right too in my opinion.

Teen magazine Youth Vogue claimed the edict had set women 'way back'.

But surely, like in all walks of life, a dress code should apply.

Transport minister John Hayes believes so. He has even refused to take questions from any male MP in the House of Commons that does not wear a tie.

So, while I'm all for women being at the top of their profession, I'd rather they be there on merit, for their ability to do their job, rather than a penchant for wearing skimpy revealing outfits.

MARK SHIPP

Dudley age UK

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# Why save unpleasant TV ads for tea time?

I gave up watching daytime television some years ago when I was confined to the chair following a serious operation. The programmes, rather than helping me on the road to recovery, depressed me beyond measure.

Don't get me wrong, I am not an unsympathetic person. But day after day of people screaming and shouting at one another on one channel and someone who is at death's door or in floods of tears on the other. Films or programmes so old you could almost smell the mothballs.

So these days, after the morning news, our television does not go on again until teatime. But then our problem is with the adverts. We usually watch The Chase and then the evening news while we eat our tea – and that is when they start. All the adverts about spitting blood when you clean your teeth, medicine to stop your constipation/diarrhoea/heartburn, treatment for head lice, something for smelly armpits/feet, or even something to stop you making the toilet smelly!

Anything unpleasant they save for when you are eating. I am sure it is planned! Pity our favourite programmes are on ITV.

**JENNY JAMES**
Wordsley

# Bid to find long lost relatives

YEARS ago I was tracing my family tree but I seem to have come to a stop.

Perhaps some of your readers could help me find grandchildren of my uncle, who was Henry Thomas Parkes, and his wife Sarah (née Woodhall). They lived in Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath.

The grandchildren are Jean O'Connell (née Bryan), born about 1945 in Rowley Regis, and Barry Bryan, born about 1949, Rowley Regis. There was another grandchild, I think her name was Pat (Patricia), she lived with her grandparents in Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, while I think the other two grandchildren lived in the Doulton Road area, Rowley Regis.

The grandchildren are the descendants of my late father Mr John Parkes who was Henry Thomas Parkes' brother. I am oping some of your readers can help me.If you have any information to share, please call the Express & Star on 01902 319402.

**MRS TAYLOR**
(née Parkes)
Dudley

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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# Lorry drivers cause tailbacks on hills

MY letters regarding 'happenings' on the motorways regarding lorries have received what I wanted – a response from drivers. What a shame that they did not read my letters properly.

I do not criticise lorry drivers in general. Our driving practice is to drive on the nearside lane, obeying the speed limits, only pulling out to overtake. We do something that is frowned on by the law and flash our headlights to warn overtaking vehicles that it is safe to pull over back into the nearside lane. The majority wiggle their indicators in thanks. This happens whether we are towing our caravan or not. Small lorries do not always co-operate.

But I will repeat what does frustrate all motor way users. Some lorry drivers try to overtake going up slopes when then do not have the speed or power to do so, causing unnecessary tailbacks. This situation is resolved by having uphill sections banned to overtaking vehicles. This is not my law, it is laid down by the people who make the rules. It operates, to my knowledge on parts of the A14 and the M4.

**PETER COLE**
Kingswinford

# HS2 only benefits the well-off

AT last plans have been unveiled for this unwanted project, HS2. We have been told of the projected cost and time scale for completion, but we know that none of these projects is completed on time, nor within budget.

Has anyone, I wonder, considered the cost to those who will be affected by this scheme, or the cost of tickets in order to reach London 25 minutes faster? This is not being built for the general public but only those people with unlimited income or travelling on expenses.

This country is not big enough to justify the expense and disruption which HS2 will cause. Surely the money would be better spent on upgrading what has been left of the rail network following Dr Beeching.

It will probably transpire that it would be cheaper to fly rather than travel by these new trains.

We are told of the employment prospects that this scheme will bring, but where are we to find the skills required?

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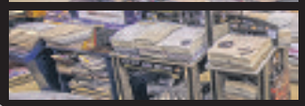

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# Sex pest loses his sentence appeal

**A RUGBY fan from Stourbridge who repeatedly exposed himself when apparently approaching female pedestrians for directions in a Welsh seaside town has failed to have his sentence reduced.**

By Doug Wootton

Jeremy Mark Randon, of Heather Drive, Stourbridge, spread panic among passers-by while prowling around in his car in the Welsh seaside town of Tywyn in October 2015.

Among those the 41-year-old exposed himself to was a 14-year-old girl.

The South African-born rugby fan, who had just watched his team play in the Rugby World Cup, had been drinking and 'was depressed', the court heard.

He had approached five females in total, all while 'naked from the waist down', London's Appeal Court heard.

Randon had been handed a three-year community order at Mold Crown Court in December 2015. He had admitted four counts of exposure and engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child. He was sentenced for drink-driving, being banned from the road for a year and ordered to sign on the sex offenders' register for five years.

A 16-year-old girl described how Randon emerged from his car, naked below the waist and touching himself in an intimate place while talking to her.

Randon's case reached the Appeal Court as he had challenged his sentence, claiming it was far too harsh.

But Judge Deborah Taylor QC said: "This application is wholly without merit." The judge, sitting with Lord Justice Treacy and Mrs Justice Russell, concluded: "This application is refused."

# Pensioner is rescued after car hits post box

The crash in Hagley Road, Stourbridge
Picture: West Midlands Police

A PENSIONER was taken to hospital when his car ended up on its side after smashing into a post box in Stourbridge on Sunday.

The accident happened on the busy Hagley Road in Stourbridge at around 2pm.

Firefighters used a ladder to get the driver, a man in his 70s, out of the Hyundai, which suffered significant damage. He was taken to Russells Hall Hospital with minor injuries.

The red post box was knocked onto its side, with the impact forcing its lid to come off. The car also hit a street sign and a bollard before coming to rest on its side.

Hagley Road was closed while firefighters worked to get the man out of the car. West Midlands Fire Service spokesman Matthew Smith said: "The incident involved one car on its side after a collision with a post box and street furniture. One male was removed from the vehicle. He was transferred to hospital by ambulance."

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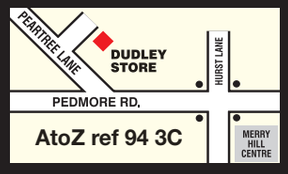


Pictures for illustration purposes only

# It's been a nightmare but now we can grieve

**'IT'S been an absolute nightmare' – words of the family of Mark Jennens, who was cleared after being wrongly accused of killing his frail elderly mother.**

The 40-year-old from Brierley Hill was found not guilty of manslaughter after his 78-year-old Hazel fell on Christmas Eve 2015 following an argument over the festive dinner.

She died at Russells Hall Hospital less than a month later from infection.

Now the family say they just want to grieve for their mother and say the case should never have gone to court.

Mr Jennens sister Tracey Jennens said: "Since the moment mum passed away it is has been an absolute nightmare. We have never been allowed to see her. She had numerous post mortems. It has been horrific. We couldn't have the funeral for 14 months.

## Upsetting

"We feel like we have had our rights taken away from us. It should never have got this far. There was no public interest in this."

His other sister Dawn Ellis added: "Now we can just get on with grieving for her. We couldn't even have the funeral until this year. It has been so upsetting. She would not have wanted this for Mark."

The case revealed the pair had rowed over how to cook potatoes moments before Mr Jennens pulled his mother up by the arms and tried to frogmarch her to the door, when she collapsed breaking her hip.

It subsequently emerged during his trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court was how the heavy burden of looking after his mother, who had lung cancer and emphysema, took its own toll on Mr Jennens. He had suffered a breakdown in early 2015 after caring for his mother for more than a decade but when he sought help from social services his mother declined support.

Mark Jennens, third from rightt, with family and friends after found not guilty

Mr Jennens said: "I can't fault social services. If a person who needs care refuses to participate you are left to drift. It is not social services' fault.

"There needs to be more of a balance struck between the people providing care and the people who need it."

The jury was told Mr Jennens' own mental state declined further, which led to insomnia and him losing his job.

The court heard that by that Christmas 24 years of verbal abuse from his mother had brought him to breaking point. A jury took just one hour and 23 minutes to find him not guilty of manslaughter.

Diane Wake, chief executive of The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "This is a very tragic case and our thoughts are with the family. We investigate every death in hospital and these form part of our mortality review process. No clinical issues were raised during our investigation and we would be happy to discuss any concerns the family have with them."


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# Brier Fair gets them dancing in the streets

Natasha Zackarzewski and Jack Lowe re-enact Dirty Dancing in the indoor market at Brierley Hill during the Brier Fair

**THOUSANDS visited a high street fair as part of the Black Country Festival celebrations.**

Brierley Hill's High Street was hosting the Brier Fair.

The day's festivities, which took place on Saturday between 11am and 4pm, included fairground rides and lots of stalls and street entertainment.

Organiser Steve Edwards, chairman of the Black Country Festival, said thousands had descended on the town centre for the event.

He added: "It went really really well, it was ram-packed. It exceeded all our expectations.

"We had fairground rides, water boat rides for the kids and lots of stalls put on by people in the local community selling their local wares. The market was also buzzing.

"It was the first time the Black Country Festival has had an event on Brierley Hill High Street. It was organised by the festival in conjunction with Dudley Council. This was all about bringing the town back to life and allow the High Street to flourish. It was attended by the local community and run by the local community."

Asked about this year's Black Country Festival was going, Mr Edwards said: "This year has been the best year ever. We are seeing great attendances at all our events and it just seems to be getting better and better."

## Floating

Meanwhile, there will be more fun in Brierley Hill this weekend when the 'floating market' returns.

The Merry Hill Floating Market will run along the canal embankment between Greens Bridge and Daniels Land Bailey Bridge from tomorrow (Friday) to next Monday.

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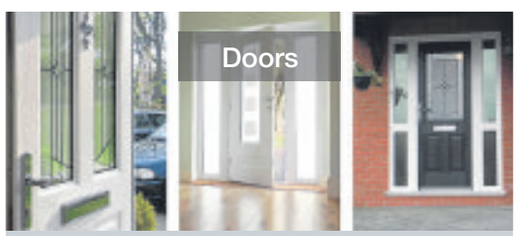


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# Lily creates winning design for booklet

THE winner of a competition to design the front cover of a welcome booklet for young patients on a hospital's children's ward has been announced.

Lily Piddington, aged 14, from Holly Hall Academy in Dudley was chosen as the winner by members of the public who cast their vote on The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust's Facebook page.

Lily, who has chosen to study art and design for her GCSEs next year, said she wanted to keep her welcome booklet design for Russells Hall Hospital simple.

She said: "I thought it would be nice to say that doctors aren't anything to be afraid of no matter what's happened to you.

"I wanted to show the people in my design could be anyone, no matter what race they are."

The design will be used on the front cover of the children's ward welcome booklet and given to every patient who stays on the ward.

Lily added: "My mum and dad were really happy I won the competition.

"They are really proud of me."

Diane Wake, chief executive of the Trust, presented Lily with a £50 Intu Merry Hill voucher. In second place was Michael Ezeji with Amman Ahmed third.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust chief executive Diane Wake with winning artist Lily Piddington

# MP's anger over litter and weeds

COUNCIL chiefs have been criticised for the state of a borough's streets, verges and open spaces by an MP.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin has urged Dudley Council to reverse its decision to stop cutting the grass and dealing with weeds across the borough.

Mr Austin said he has been contacted by residents from Sedgley, Gornal, Woodsetton, Kate's Hill, Russells Hall and the town centre to complain of the overgrown grass, out of control weeds and litter on the streets.

He said: "I'm from Dudley, I love the place and I'm proud of it but people have contacted me from all over area complaining about the state of the streets, grass verges, roundabouts and open spaces. Look at the islands at Castlegate and Flood Street. They are the gateway to Dudley and the first things visitors see, yet the grass isn't being cut properly, weeds are out of control and litter is being left. How is that going to attract visitors or encourage investment?"

# Extension of hours at Lidl approved by the council

**AN increase in operating hours at a supermarket have been approved by council bosses despite objections from residents.**

Lidl successfully applied to Dudley Council to extend times at its store in Halesowen Road, Netherton, for an extra two hours each day, increasing from 8am to 9pm, up to 7am and 10pm.

By Jamie Brassington

Residents accused the store of already flouting its operational hours under its old set times, which included reports of lorries 'thundering' onto the shop's car park at 5am and then leaving their engines running, waking residents.

A spokesman for Lidl said the store was addressing the issue 'with the hauliers directly, to ensure that the agreed delivery windows are being adhered to'.

## Flexibility

The spokesman said: "As we experience increased demand, it is necessary for us to have the flexibility in place to adapt our operational availability for the benefit of our customers.

"We were disappointed to hear feedback regarding the gates and out of hours deliveries.

"This is being addressed with the hauliers directly, to ensure that the agreed delivery windows are being adhered to." Council bosses gave the green light at a development scrutiny meeting but said the store must adhere to the conditions that it will not open to the public before 7am and after 10am each day, and deliveries should not take place before 7am and after 9pm on weekdays, before 8am and after 9pm on Saturdays, and before 10am and after 5pm on Sundays.

The store's opening hours – which are different from operating hours – are from 8am to 8pm on weekdays and Saturdays, and 10am to 4pm on Sundays.

Netherton, Woodside and St Andrews ward councillor Elaine Taylor, who spearheaded a campaign to stop the operating times changing, said: "I find it very hard for them not to have had their request granted. The pressure is there from neighbouring supermarkets.

"Primarily, although Lidl was already breaching the conditions, it wasn't breaching them enough to stop them granting those further operating hours."

A council report into the application to extend the operating times said: "Objections have been received from the occupiers of three dwellings, which front onto Halesowen Road. One objector has now written in three times. An objection has also been received from a ward councillor.

"These make the following points: The store already infringes the opening times – the gates are never padlocked shut and have been left open many times.

"The flouting of the opening times seriously impedes the basic right of neighbours to have quiet time; and large lorries thunder across the car park to the rear of the store before 6am, engines are revved whilst reversing into the loading bay."

# Glow on – rare creatures are thriving at beauty spot

A RECORD number of glow-worms have been spotted at a nature reserve near Kingswinford.

A group of volunteers have been spending two months counting glow-worms at Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's Highgate Common nature reserve.

During one of the counts, a record 146 glow-worms were recorded. The ancient heathland which covers Highgate Common is a perfect habitat for glow-worms, which are actually a type of bioluminescent beetle.

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# Counselling centre has scooped £10,000 prize

A COUNSELLING centre has scooped £10,000 worth of materials and labour after winning a competition run by a builder's merchants.

Dudley Counselling Centre on Salop Street, Dudley, was crowned regional winner in the Jewson Building Better Communities competition 2017. The money will be spent on demolishing its existing building and building a new one.

Pastor Joe Hayes, chairman of the centre, commented: "We are absolutely delighted to have won £10,000. We have a project to demolish and rebuild our existing centre, which is long overdue. We have plans for the future, to increase counselling for adults and children, and also improve our offering to the homeless people we help."

More than 2,000 entries were submitted and, with the help of Jewson employees and suppliers, the number was narrowed down to a shortlist of 42. A public vote then took place before further judging. In total Jewson has given away £250,000 to building projects and people making a difference in communities.

Dudley Counselling Centre offers support services to residents with issues, including bereavement, financial difficulties, unemployment, loneliness and substance abuse.

# I doe believe it, now Doreen's at the zoo

Doreen also visited Dudley Zoo's ring-tailed lemurs

DOREEN Tipton was handed the perfect gift for any animal lover – a namesake at Dudley Zoo now a baby deer has been named in her honour.

The comic character went on a trip to the zoo, where she got up close with the lemurs, and staff there also surprised her by revealing they have named the zoo's new baby reindeer after her.

Doreen was given a VIP tour of the Castle Hill attraction, where she filmed scenes for her latest DVD as well as visiting the lemurs and cuddling a tapir and paying a visit to Doreen the reindeer, the first born to mother Bracken and father Ghost.

She said: "I'm really touched. It's actually brought a tear to my eye, as I've never had anything named after me before."

Dudley Zoo is a sponsor of this coming festive season's panto at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Jack and the Beanstalk, in which Doreen stars alongside Gareth Gates and Lisa Riley.

# MP marks milestone for apprenticeships

A BLACK Country MP welcomed apprentices to the House of Commons last week to celebrate the 11,000 apprenticeships provided by the UK's aerospace, defence, security and space industries.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin welcomed 100 apprentices, including Thomas Connors from Sedgley who works at UTC in Wolverhampton. They were in Parliament to show the contribution apprentices make to high-skill manufacturing industries, and the world-leading technologies apprentices are working to develop.

The apprentices were from some of Britain's leading aerospace, defence, security and space companies at an event organised by ADS, the trade organisation for companies in the UK aerospace, defence, security and space sectors.

Mr Austin said: "It was great to meet Thomas and other apprentices from the Black Country. We need to make education and skills our country's number one priority."

# Travellers' transit site will be 'away from residential areas'

**A TEMPORARY travellers' site to tackle illegal camps across Dudley borough would be built away from residential areas, says council boss Patrick Harley.**

Dudley chiefs are currently looking at areas to build such a site in the borough, in the wake of a series of camps which have required police to evict travellers.

Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley says a temporary site would help to reduce 'incursions' in the borough and having such a site gives police and councils greater powers to tackle illegal land invasions.

It comes as police evicted more than 30 caravans spread across three sites in Brierley Hill on July 5, which left Dudley Council with the bill for a major a clean-up operation.

"Officers are trying to find one, " said Councillor Harley. "We need to identify a couple of areas and put them out to consultation. But a temporary travellers' site needs to be away from residential areas. In a lot of local authorities that have them, there is a 70 per cent reduction on illegal incursions."

# Deadline approaches for art competition

THE deadline is fast approaching for artists in Dudley and Walsall to put forward their submissions for an art prize. The Dawn Jones Art award invites people with experience of mental health to create artwork.

Entrants must submit their work by Monday (July 31) for a chance to win one of two £100 prizes, plus exhibition time in Walsall and Dudley.

The competition was set up by Maureen Jones in memory of her daughter, Dawn Jones, who committed suicide in 2005 at the age of 25 following a long battle with depression.

Fourteen shortlisted entries will be exhibited in August at Forest Arts Centre in Walsall and two winners will go on long-term display. Visit dwmh.nhs.uk/artprize

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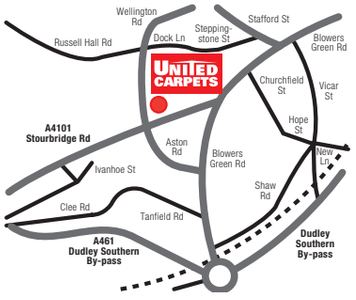

# Now Quarry Bank is looking blooming lovely

QUARRY Bank is bursting with colour in a bid to secure a coveted 'in bloom' title.

Businesses and residents have come together to create a spectacular scene on the High Street and in its main park and church.

The area is bidding to go one better after taking the silver award in the prestigious competition last year.

Mary Sparks, secretary of the Friends of Stevens Park in Quarry Bank, said: "I think the judges were impressed. For the first time this year the park is included in Quarry Bank in Bloom and we're very pleased about that. Most of the shops in the High Street have got involved and presented some sort of floral display. The church congregation should be very pleased with their efforts, it looks beautiful."

The judges were also informed of plans to revamp the park as part of a bid for Heritage Lottery funding. A community garden and pond will be added and the football pitch and footpaths resurfaced in a bid to make the area more attractive for families. The park's historic White House building will be restored and the bandstand refurbished as part of the project.

Friends of Stevens Park chairman David Sparks, centre, with judges Paul Ash and Graham Redfern

# Fanfare for a rock keyboard legend

FANS of rock star Keith Emerson can enjoy an evening dedicated to the late musician in Birmingham.

Keith Emerson: A Musical Celebration Of Life will feature keyboard wizard Rick Wakeman and a symphony orchestra at Symphony Hall tomorrow night (Friday).

The evening will pay tribute to Emerson, a keyboard legend himself, as well as the music of the powerhouse trio Emerson, Lake and Palmer.

Emerson first found fame with the band Nice in the late 1960s before forming ELP with bassist Greg Lake from King Crimson and drummer Carl Palmer from Atomic Rooster in 1970. They had several hit albums and a hit single with Fanfare For The Common Man.

Others set to appear include Californian pianist Rachel Flowers, French musician Thierry Eliez and ELP tribute act Noddy's Puncture. See thsh.co.uk for details. The event is raising money for Care After Combat. Emerson, 71, committed suicide last year in California.

# Hard choice faced over jobs or the countryside

**SHOULD the green belt be built on to develop new industries which are needed in the Black Country over the next 20 years?**

That question's being asked as it's revealed that councils need to find 300 hectares – or more than 300 rugby pitches – of land for industries and businesses in order to boost the economy and employment opportunities by 2036.

A key question of public consultation, launched by the Black Country Core Strategy which is run by the councils of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton, is should any green belt be released to make up the space?

Councillor Patrick Harley

This is just an option at this stage but the question is being asked as part of the study.

The core strategy is a planning and regeneration proposal for the whole of the region. It also looks at where homes should be built.

People living in the Black Country are being asked to share their views by September 8, when the consultation closes.

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of Dudley Council, said: "This document will shape the Black Country for a generation and it's absolutely critical that people have their say on it.

## Grow

"Making the most of brownfield land is a high priority for us and one of Dudley Council's main objectives in our work with the West Midlands Combined Authority. However, clearly at some point in the coming decades we are going to run out of these kind of sites as our population and our economy continues to grow.

"That's why we are launching a consultation, along with the other three Black Country authorities, to enable people to have their say. It's important people tell us what they think and we would urge them to get in touch."

The Black Country Core Strategy outlines how many homes need to be built and how to plan for the number of extra jobs needed for a growing population. It also decides where homes and businesses should be located. The consultation document says nearly 80,000 homes need to be built in the Black Country before 2036. It says sites have already been earmarked for around 60,000. But new plots of land need to be found for nearly 22,000 properties.

The original document was launched six years ago and covers the period up to 2026. The public consultation will be on a review of the document to take it up to 2036.

Feedback from the consultation will be analysed by council bosses before an updated version of the plans are put out for consultation next year.

Residents are also being asked to give their views regarding where housing should be built, as part of the Black Country Core Strategy's public consultation.

There is a 'call for sites', as part of the public consultation, where people can put forward areas of land they feel may be suitable for development.

The information from the consultation will be collated and used to produce a proposed review document, which will again go out to consultation next year.

People can find out more about the consultation and take part at blackcountrycorestrategy.dudley.gov.uk.

Leaflets will also be available from libraries across the Dudley borough, or they can be requested by calling (01384) 814136.

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## Winter ales fair needs volunteers

THE Dudley Winter Ales Fair will go ahead this winter but still needs more helpers to ensure its success.

The 32nd annual event is to take place in Dudley Town Hall from November 23 to 25.

The Dudley and South Staffordshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale held a 'viability' meeting in the Park Inn, Woodsetton, to establish if enough support was available to stage the beer festival.

The branch has appointed Karl Denning to be the festival organiser and has filled several of the main organising roles. Mr Denning urged branch members to go along to the first festival committee meeting on Monday at the Park Inn at 8pm.

## Zoo tiger team raising funds

VISITORS to Dudley Zoo are being encouraged to earn their stripes by raising funds for tigers this weekend.

Keepers will be highlighting the plight of tigers in the wild with the help of the zoo Sumatran tigers, Daseep and Joao to mark Global Tiger Day on Saturday. Staff will be raising funds for 21st Century Tiger, which supports conservation projects, including a raffle to win a special tiger experience.

FOCUS ON DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE

# Eyesore office block is due to be demolished next year

**AN EYESORE office block which has sat empty for years in Dudley town centre is to be demolished next year, a senior councillor has revealed.**

Cavendish House will be knocked down to make way for a multi-million pound retail development, under proposals to regenerate the town centre.

By James Brassington

Plans have been in the pipeline to demolish the multi-storey building off Trindle Road for some time, but the project has been delayed.

But now Dudley Council leader Councillor Patrick Harley has revealed that he expects the property to be demolished some time next year.

A planning application to pull down the former office block is expected to be submitted by its owners, Avenbury, to Dudley Council in the next few weeks.

### Exciting

It will pave the way the way for a new development which will consist of leisure and retail enterprises and homes, said Councillor Harley.

"It is quite an exciting time for Dudley, there a lot of things that are about to start," he said. "There is a lot of money being pumped into the infrastructure of Dudley.

"We expect the planning application to develop the whole area to take place in late July or early August.

"A light demolition of the site will probably take place at the end of the year. The full demolition will probably take place next year.

"It has been long overdue. Cavendish House has been a blot on the landscape for more years than I can remember."

The block overlooks the Duncan Edwards Way bypass – one of the major gateways into Dudley.

Avenbury bought Cavendish House for £800,000 at a property auction in London in 2015.

Blot on the townscape – Cavendish House is due to make way for new shops and leisure facilities in Dudley town centre

## Play tennis for free at Priory Park

A NATIONAL sports charity has served up an ace by investing in a year-long programme of tennis sessions.

Tennis For Free aims to get hundreds of people across Dudley making a racket a Priory Park, Paganel Drive.

In a post-Wimbledon push, the charity has created a partnership with Dudley Council, Sandwell Leisure Trust and the Lawn Tennis Association.

It will help to provide free coach-led tennis sessions for all the family, and started on Sunday. Equipment will be provided free of charge.

There is a statue of double Wimbledon winner and Dudley-born Dorothy Round, who won the All England Championships in 1937 and 1943, at Priory Park.

Sandwell Leisure Trust's tennis operation officer Lee Marks said: "We are all very excited to welcome Tennis For Free to Priory Park. It is a fantastic opportunity for all members of the local community to get into the spirit of trying tennis for either the first time or to try again."

Tennis For Free chief executive Paul Jessop said: "This is our third site launch in the West Midlands in 2017 and we hope to open others before the end of the summer.

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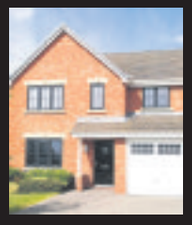

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# Assistant wins prize thanks to her pupils

A LONG-SERVING teaching assistant at a Black Country school has won a cash prize after being nominated by her pupils in a competition run by a supermarket.

Teaching assistant Maureen Harper, of St Chad's Catholic Primary School in Sedgley, was gifted with £250 during a presentation in front of a class.

She was nominated by her students after Asda, which is opening a new store close by the school on Dudley Street, asked them to nominate a star teacher to receive the prize.

### Smile

The children said they nominated Mrs Harper because she was always there to make them laugh and smile, for her enthusiasm and compassion she has sown shown, and also for building up pupils' confidence and for giving them the courage to do anything they can.

Mrs Harper was surprised with the £250 Asda gift card prize during a class by Asda Sedgley's people service manager, Julie Dent, and community colleague, Sara Morris.

The teaching assistant was herself a pupil at the Catholic Lane school and has since worked there for nearly 30 years.

She started at the school as a dinner lady in 1988 before moving on to the role of teaching assistant in 1999.

The prize came just two days after her 60th birthday.

Asda's Julie Dent said: "As a brand new store for the area we're super keen to get to know the local community. "We thought St Chad's Primary School, which is adjacent to our store, was a great place to start and we were delighted to surprise Maureen with her prize."

The supermarket giant has taken over the former Co-op store on the junction of Dudley Street and High Holborn Street. The move by Asda is creating 80 jobs.

Sedgley teaching assistant Maureen Harper, centre, after her £250 cash prize was handed over

# House prices are predicted to rise across the region

THE West Midlands is set to be one of the UK's house price hot spots in the coming months.

It is projected to be one of the top regions in the country for fast growing property prices, according to research from leading accountancy PwC. But the new report also predicts the West Midlands will lag behind other regions when it comes to economic growth in 2017.

PwC expects growth to slow in most areas next year as the UK continues to feel the effects of uncertainty due to Brexit.

PwC's latest UK Economic Outlook says the West Midlands is projected to see house price growth of 4.5 per cent in 2017, above a UK average of 3.7 per cent. The West Midlands will only be behind the East of England, East Midlands and South West. It means the average home could be worth around £183,000 this year, £8,000 higher than in 2016, and could rise to more than £208,000 by 2025. Matthew Hammond, Midlands chairman for PwC, said: "The housing market in the Midlands reflects the strength of the West Midlands economy. Key cities in the region, including Birmingham, Coventry, Stoke-on-Trent and Wolverhampton, are performing well in terms of jobs, health, the number of business start-ups, transport and environment."

# 'Madness' to build homes on ex-dump

**CAMPAIGNERS have labelled plans to build hundreds of homes on a former dump 'total madness'.**

Sandwell Council wants to create a development at the Rattlechain Lagoon site as part of its Dudley Port 'garden city' masterplan unveiled last week.

But there are already fears the land could be contaminated from years of waste dumping, while there are also calls for the land to be preserved for wildlife.

By Richard Guttridge

The site, off Temple Way, Tividale, is among sites to have been identified for housing under plans to transform the area over the coming years.

Sandwell Council has targeted building 250 homes there.

The land was once used as a brick clay works but was later used for waste disposal, leading to concerns about the condition of the site.

### Uncertainty

The Friends of the nearby Sheepwash Nature Reserve have come out against the plans.

Ian Carroll, from the group, said: "This pretty picture laden report spends many pages talking about generalities.

"It is only at the back of the document that you get to the controversial house building proposals that will destroy wildlife corridors in the area and threaten the wildlife in our reserve, as well as creating years of misery and uncertainty for people living next to them."

UKIP Sandwell has also voiced concerns about the proposals, calling for the land to be left alone over the potential impact on wildlife.

The plans for the Rattlechain are at an early stage, with council bosses having so far outlined the area for a preferred site for development.

Further investigations would need to take place before planning permission was granted.

In its garden city document, the council states that 'information regarding ground conditions is limited and that the whole site 'may not be capable of complete development'.

The garden city proposals include hundreds at homes at three other sites and major improvements to Dudley Port train station and busy roads.

The train station would receive significant investment to become a transport interchange, combining train, metro and rail services. Bus and cycle lanes would be added to the A461.

# Muddy good show

AN eight-year-old cancer survivor took part in a mud-splattered fundraiser for charity. Tom Griffiths was one of 300 children to participate in Cancer Research UK's Pretty Muddy Kids in Birmingham. He was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia in 2013 aged just four.

But the Tividale Community Primary School pupil took part in the event at Cofton Park, Longbridge, which raised around £275,000.

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# Blind Dave takes on 10km charity bear hunt

**AN intrepid band of runners took on a 10km bear hunt – running the distance between Sandwell's six Big Sleuth bears.**

Marathon man Blind Dave Heeley was joined by 15 runners, made up of Sandwell Council staff and sponsors of The Big Sleuth, for the run between Bearwood and West Bromwich.

They kicked off the run, started by Sandwell Council Leader Councillor Steve Eling, at Bentley The Bearwood Bear in Warley Woods at 10am on Wednesday.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for leisure, Councillor Richard Marshall, said: "We've had another fantastic day during the first week of The Big Sleuth in Sandwell. The runners made short work of the 10km course despite the heat and we were all there to cheer them on at the final bear outside Sandwell College's Central Sixth campus in West Bromwich."

## Awareness

Blind Dave, who this year will run all 25 Great Runs ahead of his 60th birthday in November in aid of the Albion Foundation, said: "Today was a really fun run shared with staff from the council and West Brom Building Society, great banter, lovely people all sharing one thing.

"I truly hope our run has added to the awareness of the wonderful work the kids hospital does. The kids deserve every chance of becoming an adult and the staff deserve all the funding to be able to provide the care."

And after visiting the other two Bearwood bears – BearTrix Blocker in Lightwoods Park and Bussy Bear at Bearwood bus station – the group ran through Smethwick, up to Sandwell Valley and to Uncle B, the bear at Sandwell Park Farm.

The last leg of the run was to Bearolution near the Farley Fountain, before being welcomed at around 11.40am by cheering schoolchildren and musicians at Picnic Time For Teddy Bears outside Sandwell College's Central Sixth campus. The runners were met by children from Lodge Primary School, a fanfare from The People's Orchestra, the Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Ahmadul Haque, Leader of Sandwell Council Steve Eling, cabinet member for leisure councillor Richard Marshall plus sponsors, and staff from the Arts Café and Central Sixth.

Sandwell Council neighbourhoods staff were joined by Community Activity Network Development Officers who did a relay.

Blind Dave Heeley, with the Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Ahmadul Haque

# Man ran in front of coach to kill himself

A FOOTBALL coach took his own life after running in front of a coach carrying children on the M5 at Great Barr, an inquest heard.

Nicholas Mowl, aged 41, had been troubled by a mystery trauma, believed to be related to his health.

The week before his death, the retired semi-professional footballer had been due to return to Australia to work, but failed to make the flight, saying he was ill.

By Marion Brennan

The coach, which had taken pupils to Grove Primary in Handsworth, Birmingham, after a day at Kingsbury Water Park on May 16, had been diverted due to the closure of the Aston Expressway following the discovery of an unexploded Second World War bomb nearby.

Driver Gurdip Bagree, of Broadway West, Walsall, described seeing a black Vauxhall Insignia pull on to the hard shoulder and park abruptly before the driver jumped out about two coach lengths away from the Attain Travel coach.

Mr Bagree told the hearing: "Alarm bells did start ringing. The driver looked back and made eye contact, then he ran in front of my vehicle.

"It was so sudden, I had no chance to react."

Pc Stuart Thorpe, who investigated the incident, said the Vauxhall's engine was still running when police got to the scene. The coach's windscreen was smashed, but no-one onboard had been hurt. A post mortem showed Mr Mowl, from Solihull, who worked for sports agency Omnisports, died from multiple injuries.

According to his parents, who did not attend, Mr Mowl had alluded to 'something that had happened in his life', possibly the diagnosis of a terminal illness, said Pc Thorpe. Black Country coroner Zafar Siddique concluded that Mr Mowl's death was due to suicide.

# Foster joins Brum 2022 bid team

Former international athlete and long-distance runner Brendan Foster, backing the Commonwealth Games bid

FORMER Commonwealth Games 10,000 metres gold medallist Brendan Foster has joined the Birmingham 2022 bid team, which is trying to bring the event to the city.

He also won an Olympic bronze and two other Commonwealth Games medals in his athletics career and was founder of the Great Run Company, which manages Great Birmingham Run, Great Birmingham 10k and Birmingham International Marathon.

He will soon be retiring from the BBC Sport commentary team after this summer's London IAAF World Championship.

"Birmingham is an ambitious, vibrant city with a great sporting heritage and I believe the ideal location to host such a prestigious global event. Our company has a strong relationship with Birmingham through organising Great Run events in recent years and in October we'll be staging the first marathon in the city for 28 years," he said.

# Home alone worries spur calls to NSPCC

THE NSPCC referred nearly 120 cases to police and children's services in the Black Country and Staffordshire last year, the organisation has revealed.

The referrals came in the wake of calls and emails from members of the public worried about children left home alone.

Ahead of the summer holidays, children's charity bosses have confirmed specialist counsellors on its 24-hour Helpline made 119 referrals in 2016-17 to local agencies in the region.

Of these, 44 referrals were made to authorities in Staffordshire, 28 in Sandwell, 19 in Dudley, 15 in Walsall and 13 in Wolverhampton.

NSPCC chief executive Peter Wanless said: "Deciding if a child is ready to be left on their own can be a very difficult decision and the summer holidays can be a difficult time for parents and carers as they face increasing childcare pressures. Although there is no minimum age, no child should be left on their own if there is any risk they will come to harm."

To help parents and carers the NSPCC has issued guidance on leaving children home alone on its website. The NSPCC's helpline is available 24/7 on 0808 800 5000.

# MP donates £500 from his pay rise

**Ian Austin presents the cheque to YMCA's Rachael Taylor**

AN MP has handed over a cheque for £500 to the YMCA Black Country Group after promising to use his pay rise to help charities.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin donated the cash from his 'Good Causes' fund, which he set up with the 10 per cent pay rise handed to MPs in 2015. The donation will support the YMCA's Open Doors Project which finds homes for homeless young people with families.

The YMCA provides a range of youth and community services including accommodation, health advice, training and education for young people in the Black Country.

Labour MP Mr Austin said: "I promised at the election that when times are tough for so many local families I would use the MPs' pay rise to help good causes.

"The YMCA does brilliant work in Dudley and the wider Black Country so I am really pleased to hand over £500 to help them continue their support for local youngsters."

For more information on the YMCA Black Country Group see the www.ymcabc.org.uk website.

# Visitors can use app to probe park history

VISITORS to an historic Dudley park have been urged to download an app to find out more about its past.

The app allows visitors a unique insight into Dudley's Priory Park. It was officially opened as a park in 1932 but the land has a history dating back around a thousand years.

Features of the app include a GPS park map showing visitors their location and information about recent restoration, including 'before and after' photographs. There is also a GPS Art Trail to the various art works located around the park, including a statue of local Wimbledon hero Dorothy Round.

Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member for environment, said: "The app is a brilliant use of modern technology, giving visitors the chance to explore the history of the park first hand via their phones. It is designed to be used as a companion when visiting the site but can equally be used and enjoyed from the comfort of your own home."

# Community cricket club unveils £34,000 revamp of its HQ

**A BLACK Country cricket club has undergone a major revamp to improve its facilities and increase capacity.**

Pedmore Cricket Club, in Stourbridge, has spent £34,000 refurbishing its clubhouse, redecorated and upgraded with new electrics and plumbing.

Councillor Angus Lees, of the Pedmore and Stourbridge East ward, said the upgrade was 'well deserved' as the club helpedt he community and brought young players through its ranks.

The 125-year-old cricket club held an official opening earlier this month to mark the completion of work.

Councillor Lees said: "It is a community club, which encourages young and local people to come together and play a traditional sport."

Councillor Lees attended the official opening alongside fellow ward councillor Les Jones, who tweeted: "Had the privilege of officially opening Pedmore Cricket Club's new clubhouse extension. Well done to all that helped make it happen."

He added: "The club has been completely redecorated inside and out"

# Howzat as Worcs fans walk for cancer charity

A GROUP of intrepid cricket supporters are putting their best feet forward to raise funds for a cancer charity. The group of Worcestershire County Cricket Club fans will walk the 30 miles from Worcestershire's New Road to Warwickshire's home atEdgbaston on August 4 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Tim Cox, Keith Jones, Mark Ashbourne, Michael Podmore and Michael Bishop aim to arrive at Edgbaston in time to watch the two sides compete in a T20 clash that evening.

The walk is named The Fell Walk in honour of Worcestershire player Tom Fell who at the age of 24 has beaten cancer twice. To sponsor thm, call 07506 747619 or visit justgiving.com/fundraising/Mark-Ashbourne

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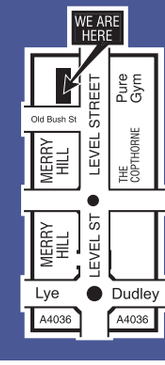


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# DUDLEY CHRONICLE IS THE ONLY FREE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DELIVERED DOOR TO DOOR IN DUDLEY

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CHRONICLE

# Betty celebrates 105th birthday

SHE was born in the year that the Titanic sunk and survived two world wars.

And this week Netherton-born Betty Sophia Jones has celebrated reaching her 105th birthday.

Betty marked the occasion with a party with fellow residents and careers at Nelson House care home, in Dudley, and was visited by her nephew David Homer.

Mr Homer, 66, who is Betty's only close living relative, described her as a woman who was dedicated to her family, a keen church goer who took joy from helping others

She was one of six siblings, having four sisters and a brother.

# Police must improve phone responses, says commissioner

**POLICE chiefs in the West Midlands have been told they need to make a 'huge improvement' in their response to calls to the 101 non-emergency number.**

The region's Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said the fact nearly 400,000 calls to the number were not answered last year is 'not acceptable'.

Mr Jamieson said he recognised the force was 'under pressure' from an 'unprecedented' level of calls but their performance had to improve.

The force says 90 per cent of call handlers are now trained to deal with 999 and 101 – the remaining 10 per cent are either on maternity leave or on long-term sick.

Officer and staff attendance is below the 97 per cent target , currently at 89 per cent for officers and 92 per cent for civilian staff.

Half of those off sick are on long-term sick leave with the majority suffering from stress or anxiety.

Mr Jamieson said: "Staff are under pressure from the huge levels of demand. Eighty-four per cent of 999 emergency calls are answered within 10 seconds.

"I want that to improve further and reach the expected levels. It is an important service and it needs to improve."

# More nurses at two hospitals

NEARLY 100 nurses are set to be taken on by a hospital trust to bring a much-needed boost to staffing levels.

Nurses could start work at Sandwell and City Hospitals within weeks after job offers were made at a recruitment event.

A total of 95 conditional offers were made after 110 people were interviewed.

Trust chiefs have been battling to get the number of vacancies down at its two hospitals.

At the start of the year there were more than 200 nursing positions available, while bosses have also targeted spending less on agency staff.

# MP visits outstanding pre-school

Stourbridge MP Margot James recently visited St Michael's Christian Pre-School in Norton

A PRE-SCHOOL in Stourbridge has been described as inspirational by Ofsted inspectors who have rated it as outstanding.

St Michael's Christian Pre-School in Norton has received a glowing report from the education watchdog after inspectors visited the premises in Maynard Avenue.

In a summary of key findings, inspector Julia Galloway said 'leadership is inspirational' and staff 'meticulously plan for all areas of learning.' It says 'children benefit from a vibrant and stimulating environment.'

Pre-school manager Sally Collins said: "Margot James MP for Stourbridge recently visited and congratulated the pre-school on its outstanding Ofsted report for the inspection in June 2017.

"She visited the setting, which is facilitated by St. Michael's Church, to meet staff and volunteers to discuss the sustainability of such pre-schools and issues about future funding for Early Years provision.

"The visit was much appreciated by all those who spoke to Margot, who was impressed with the facilities."

The pre-school, which takes children aged two to four, has 36 youngsters on roll and it employs nine members of childcare staff.

Its latest rating is an improvement on its last inspection in 2015 when it was rated good. Other areas praised included behaviour of children which was described as 'exceptional' and it said "staff develop close bonds with children and they are highly tuned into the emotional well-being of each child."

The report added: 'Healthy foods and physical activities are part of the daily routine.'

# Beer we go! Drinks are on Baggies chief

HARDCORE Albion fans in Hong Kong have plenty to cheer after being taken to the pub by 'down-to-earth' chairman John Williams.

The Albion chief enjoyed a drink and even picked up the tab for nearly 50 supporters at The Queen Victoria Pub, in Wan Chai, before giving each fan a replica shirt – some of which were match-worn and signed.

However, he suffered a shock when one supporter ordered a bottle of Bollinger champagne on his tab.

Baggies chairman Williams also hired a bus to take the supporters to training to meet their heroes and watch Tony Pulis drill the squad ahead of the match with Crystal Palace, which the London club won 2-0.

It was a gesture that went down well with those who had travelled nearly 6,000 miles to see the Baggies in the Premier League Asia Trophy.

Supporter David James said: "Folk have come a long way and at considerable cost to follow their team, so the fact it is acknowledged and appreciated, it means a lot. The chairman put his credit card behind the bar but I won't repeat what he said when I ordered a bottle of Bollinger."

When Williams first arrived at the club last August he promised to be a more 'fan-friendly' chairman than predecessor Jeremy Peace. The former Blackburn Rovers chief said: "The supporters are the lifeblood of the club and the very least they can expect when they display such devotion at such expense is the chance to have a drink and chat with those of us privileged to work inside the club."

The Baggies lost their Premier League Asia Trophy semi-final 7-6 on penalties to Leicester City.

# Travel pass swift move

THOUSANDS of children across the West Midlands will see their travel passes move on to the Swift card next month.

They will make the switch following work by Transport for West Midlands (TfWM), part of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) to put paper tickets on to the smart-card platform.

Around 6,000 young people whose paper travel cards are currently supplied through the TfWM and National Express West Midlands direct debit schemes will be issued Swift cards from August 27.

Wolverhampton councillor Roger Lawrence, lead member for transport, said: "This is great news for young people. As well as meaning you never have to worry about having the right change for the bus, these Swift cards are easy to replace if they get lost."

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# New 'Boj' play area at the safari park

A NEW £850,000 children's park based around a children's TV character has opened up at a safari park near Kidderminster.

The facility has opened at West Midland Safari Park, in Bewdley, just in time for the summer holidays.

The park is an interactive and multi-sensory play area, designed specifically for younger guests. It is themed around CBeebies and S4C character 'Boj', a rare bilby or marsupial omnivore from the Australian outback.

Head of marketing Daniel Griffiths said: "I was introduced to the creators of Boj, Pesky Productions, two years ago and I knew that by working together we could produce something amazing for our younger visitors."

# Replacing panels at high-rise blocks will cost £285,000

**REPLACING panels on high-rise blocks which failed fire safety tests will cost Sandwell Council nearly £300,000.**

Bosses were forced to take urgent action when the panels were found to pose a safety risk in the wake of the Grenfell fire tragedy in London. But the move will be costly for the authority, which revealed new aluminium panels to be fitted to the flats would set it back £285,000.

The council said it would try to recoup the money from the Government.

The boards were removed from above windows on tower blocks in West Bromwich and Oldbury last month after the Grenfell disaster, in which up to 80 people died.

Although the panelling complied with building regulations, bosses took the decision to replace them. Due to the urgency of the work, council chiefs said it had not been possible to put the job out to tender to get the cost down.

Work to replace panels at Astbury Court and Lawrence Court,in Brandhall, and Neale House and Macauley House in West Bromwich, is expected to begin next month.

# Advice roadshow judged a success

A ROADSHOW offering advice and help for people affected by Alzheimer's is celebrating success after touring around the Black Country.

The Alzheimer's Society Dementia Community Roadshow stopped off in Stourbridge, Wolverhampton and West Bromwich as part of its tour.

The national tour took place from July 12 to 14 and aimed to increase awareness and understanding of the condition which affects an estimated 3,000 people aged over 65 in Wolverhampton alone.

Alzheimer's Society staff and volunteers offered free information and advice to anyone with queries about the condition, as well as helping to promote the benefits of an early diagnosis. Numerous members of the public approached the roadshow with questions.

Lee Allen, services manager for Alzheimer's Society, said: "The roadshow enabled the Black Country team to continue to raise awareness in the community. We were delighted with the response we received over the three days reaching out to those people that wanted information or to talk to one of our dedicated staff for advice and support."

Visit alzheimers.org.uk/roadshow for details.

# Dog's tale of Black Country landmarks

**Will McQuire and Jenny Houston with their children's book**

A CHILDREN'S book has been launched which follows the path of a dog who sneaks out of his house and visits landmarks around a Black Country town.

Catch That Dog! has been released by Halesowen couple Jenny Houston, aged 26, and New Zealand-born Will McQuire, 27.

The tale follows the story of a Scottish Terrier called Harvey, who takes an unprompted visit around Halesowen looking at its landmarks, including Saint John's Church, Leasowes Park and Halesowen Library.

Jenny said: "We want to encourage children to read, by making books that feature their very own town with places they recognise."

The couple formed their own publishing company, Halesowen Homemade, six months ago. Catch That Dog! is their first book.

Schools across Halesowen have snapped up the the book while Dudley Council has made it available in its libraries.

Visit www.halesowen homemade.com or www.facebook.co.uk/halesowenhomemade

# Dinosaur events are planned at art gallery

PEOPLE are invited to visit Wolverhampton Art Gallery to find out more about dinosaurs.

Visitors are being asked to pop into the Lichfield Street gallery to find out about fossils, make their own model dinosaurs and create their own stories. The activities are all aimed at children aged from seven to 11 and the sessions run from July 31 to August 4 from 10.30am to 3pm.

The week kicks off with dinosaur drawing, where youngsters can learn to make fossil drawings like a palaeontologist. On Tuesday it is all about the 'Eggosaurus' and the chance to make a baby dinosaur nest in a neat little box to take home.

It's 'Dinosaur Diorama' on Wednesday where visitors can learn how to make their own 3-D dinosaur landscapes to take home and play dinosaur games.

The Dinosaur School costs £15 per child per day or £50 for the week and can be booked by calling 01902 552038.

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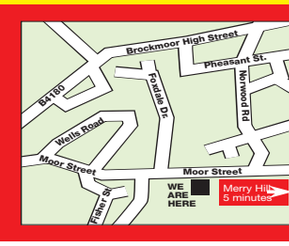


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# 18 months of roadworks to hit the M5

DRIVERS are facing traffic chaos on the M5 with major restrictions about to come in as part of an 18-month long roadworks scheme.

From the end of the month, northbound and southbound traffic will be filtered in two lanes onto one side of the carriageway between junctions one and two for West Bromwich and Oldbury – with vehicles crawling at 30mph.

It has also been revealed that traffic will be cut to two lanes heading northbound from junction three at Halesowen to limit the amount of vehicles approaching the roadworks zone and avoid a bottleneck.

The scheme to repair Oldbury viaduct started at Easter, but so far drivers have faced minimal disruption, with the speed limit cut to 40mph but all lanes still open. Sandwell Council leader Steve Eling has warned of chaos on the M5 in the coming months but roads bosses insist the measures are necessary for safety reasons.

Motorists have been warned to prepare for the changes, which are expected to cause significant delays, and consider taking alternative routes. Slip roads will remain open throughout the works.

Highways England senior project manager, Zbigniew Twarowski, said: "This is essential work."

# Volunteers needed for reading help

VOLUNTEERS are sought to help children reach their potential and improve their reading skills.

Support includes becoming a 'Beanstalk helper', helping children to learn through reading.

For information, visit www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk or email westmidlandsapplications@beanstalkcharity.org.uk or call 0121 771 2922.

# Man admits trying to kill shopkeeper – three years on

**A PARANOID schizophrenic has admitted attempting to murder a shopkeeper by stabbing him 41 times in a 'frenzied' attack – almost three years after the incident.**

David Dean was deemed unfit to plead to the charge due to the state of his mental health two years ago. But last week, after being given the all-clear by two psychiatrists, the 45-year-old reappeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court and delivered his guilty plea.

The court heard how Dean leapt over the counter at News and Booze in Bilston and repeatedly stabbed 51-year-old Purshotam Lal. He then fled, leaving his victim, who later required 43 stitches, severely injured.

Dean, currently being treated at the Reaside Hospital near Birmingham, will remain locked up indefinitely in a secure hospital under sentencing by Judge John Wait.

## Frenzied

Mr Wait described how Dean's deteriorating mental condition at the time had left him with a 'holy disillusioned' view on reality.

Judge Wait told Dean: "You came to believe that those who run the shop were in truth some form of hostile force troubling your mother. You take it on yourself to seek to kill Mr Lal."

He added: "You had fallen in such a state that you launch this awful, frenzied attack on him."

Ms Heidi Kubik, prosecuting, played CCTV of the incident, at around 9.30pm on December 21, 2014. It showed Dean entering the shop and attracting Mr Lal's attention before stabbing him repeatedly.

He was arrested two days later after being seen acting strangely in East Park.

Mr Jon Roe, defending, said: "Dean is appalled by his behaviour that day."

# Antonia bobs up with fundraiser

A 10-year-old girl provided the centre piece for a fund raising event by having 30 inches of her hair cut off.

Antonia Pratt sat on a chair in the middle of the beer garden at the rear of the Three Cups Inn on Spring Road, Lanesfield on Saturday afternoon.

Scores of parents and children watched and applauded as she had the hair, which had reached to her knees before it was plaited ready for collection, transformed into a shoulder bob by 26-year-old Emma Finch who works at a salon in Kingswinford.

The hair and half of the cash raised at the event, which also included food and music, will go to the Little Princess Trust which provides real hair wigs free of charge to boys and girls across the UK and Ireland who have lost their own hair due to cancer.

Antonia, who lives with her family Woodcross, Coseley, made the gesture after her grandmother lost her life to cancer around Christmas.

She and other members of the Lauren Dion School of Dance had performed at an earlier St George's Day charity event at the pub which raised £2,000, some of which was donated to the Little Princess Trust.

Antonia, who had only had her hair cut three times in her life befor, explained: "I thought the world of my nan and wanted to do something in her memory for children."

The event raised at least £500 with the sum split between Little Princess Trust and research into bowel cancer.

Antonia Pratt had 30 inches of hair cut off to raise money for charities

# Industrial link to death of ex-miner

A FORMER miner who worked as a coal cutter during his 35 years down the pit died from an industrial disease, an inquest has ruled.

Kenneth Billingham, of Hilton Road, Featherstone, Wolverhampton had suffered from shortness of breath in recent years but his condition deteriorated markedly in January and he died in New Cross Hospital on July 9.

He had been a coal miner between 1953 and 1988 at three mines, Hilton, Hednesford and Littleton Colliery in Cannock, his daughter Jane Billingham told the inquest at Oldbury.

A post mortem showed that the 78-year-old died from respiratory failure as a result of pneumoconiosis. He had worked at the coalface for most of his career.

Black Country coroner Zafar Siddique concluded that Mr Billingham died of an industrial disease.

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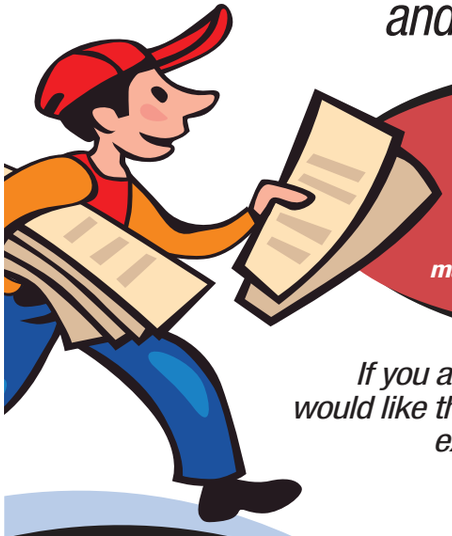

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# From Corrie star to Queen Of Hearts

She used to be the Queen of the Street. But now Corrie star Wendi Peters – aka Cilla Battersby – is the Queen of Hearts. Following sold-out seasons across the globe, the multi Grammy and Drama Desk Award-nominated Wonderland has received its UK and European première.

A new British production, which visits Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Monday until August 5, stars Wendi as the Queen Of Hearts.

It also features leading musical theatre star Dave Willetts as the White Rabbit, with We Will Rock You & Britain's Got Talent's Rachael Wooding as Alice.

Wendi says: "My job as an actress is to be creative. I just love the process of reading something off the page and thinking through how I'm going to best tell the story. I don't like doing anything for too long – I played Cilla Battersby in Coronation Street for four years, the longest time I've ever worked on the same role. It got to that point where I wasn't doing anything different and I knew I needed to create something new and get back out there to do theatre again, where I'd learnt my craft.

"People would watch me on TV four times a week and think that's all I could do, but they perhaps didn't realise that for 15 years before Coronation Street I'd been in musical theatre – it's lovely to go back to my roots and have a good old sing every night."

The ex-Corrie actress stars alongside David Willetts

## THRILLED

The music in Wonderland is one of Wendi's most favoured aspects. And she's thrilled to be lining up alongside David, the Birmingham-born singer and actor who left his job as a quality control supervisor at an engineering firm to pursue his dream of being a star.

David went on to feature in the West End in Les Miserables, in the lead role of Jean Valjean, before joining the Broadway cast. He then succeeded Michael Crawford in Lord Andrew Lloyd-Webber's Phantom of the Opera, at Her Majesty's Theatre. Wendi loves the musical element of Wonderland.

She says: "The music is just amazing, Wonderland has a wonderful score by Frank Wildhorn with great vocals from everybody in the cast. There's music from every genre, there's rock, pop, pure musical theatre, boyband and even a bit of classical, there's something for every age. There's a modern twist on it – our Alice is 40 now and she has a teenage daughter, once she's back in Wonderland you meet all the familiar characters you know and love. There is the twist of the Looking Glass, anybody could change at any point.

"For this production we had nothing really to copy and that's lovely. I don't think that any actor should ever copy what's been before, but of course if the material's out there you're going to have a sneaky look at what's been done previously.

Wonderful tonight – Wendi stars in Wonderland

Apart from a performance by the Broadway cast at the Tony Awards there's little else of Wonderland online and I love that because I can think through the character myself and be my best interpretation of the role and hopefully bring something new to it."

She found her way into the role of Queen of Hearts, taking inspiration from a number of sources. However, given that the British play is a UK first, she was able to create the role from scratch. And she's hoping local audiences will enjoy her portrayal – even though eating so many jam tarts has been no good for her waistline.

"With the Queen Of Hearts, there are so many different versions of her. The one that always stands out for me is the Disney film and that's probably the image that springs to mind for most people. There's a little bit of myself in my characterisation and I think that for any actor, to play the role truthfully there must be a little bit of their own self in the character."

> *I do a lot of shouting, sing a bit and eat three jam tarts every show*

"As the Queen Of Hearts, I do a lot of shouting, sing a few numbers and eat three jam tarts every show. By the time we get to Wolverhampton we'll have done about 200 shows, so I'll have eaten 600 jam tarts.

"It's always fun to play the baddie, but you must find something within them that does make people like them a little bit. I'd like to think that there will be a little bit of all my comedy heroes in my Queen Of Hearts. I love Molly Sugden, Peggy Mount and Patricia Routledge who played Hyacinth 'Bouquet' Bucket in Keeping Up Appearances – you can't help but love Hyacinth, she's a monster but part you that says 'oh isn't she wonderful.'"

WONDERLAND is now on sale at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre for performances between 31 July – 5 August 2017. Tickets from www.grandtheatre.co.uk.

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

A scene from Miss Saigon

# The heat is on for summer blockbuster Miss Saigon

The first time you see Miss Saigon, I guarantee it will be etched on your heart forever. It's completely and utterly unforgettable.

Music is by the incomparable team, Claude-Michel Schönberg and Alain Boublil, while lyrics are by Alain and Richard Maltby Jr. It came hot on the heels of the team's epic musical phenomenon Les Miserables when it premiered in the 1980s, and 30 years on is still filling theatres, writes Alison Norton.

Miss Saigon is based on Puccini's Madame Butterfly, and tells the tragic love story of a teenage Vietnamese girl and an American GI who meet during the Vietnam war. In this production of Miss Saigon, The Engineer, who is essentially a pimp, is played by Red Concepcion, an engaging actor from the Philippines."This is my first show in Europe and in the UK, which is very exciting!" he says. "The Engineer is nasty but funny and charming in his own way."

A highlight in the show is a life-sized helicopter, which lands and then takes off again on stage. I saw it on the day I visited the cast at one of their technical rehearsal days in Leicester. Spoiler alert! Let's just say you hear it before you see it and the effect is nothing short of chilling. It's one of the most incredible special affects you will ever see in theatre.

Catch Miss Saigon at Birmingham Hippodrome, it is on now and continues until September 23. Visit www.birminghamhippodrome.com or call 0844 338 5000.

# Pinch me, I'm so lucky to get this role

He's a platinum-selling recording artist, actor, producer, author and ambassador for the Prince's Trust. Darius Campbell is a man of many talents.

He is currently touring the UK with Funny Girl The Musical, which brings the former Pop Idol finalist to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre until its final performance in the city on Saturday night. He is leading man Nick Arnstein starring alongside Natasha J Barnes as Fanny Brice.

"Funny Girl is such a pleasure, we opened in London and now we're touring with Natasha. It is the number one romantic musical comedy of all time – and I get to be the leading man, so pinch me. I get to do it again 18 months on and we're still performing to standing ovations. I'm very lucky.

"We've got some of the best music and maybe the best songs of the last 70 years. The show is 50 years old and it hasn't been performed here since the original with Barbara Streisand which shot her to fame. They made a film of it that won five Academy Awards."

Campbell came to fame through reality TV, though he's long since outgrown those roots.

"It's been 17 years since my original audition for Pop Idol and 15 years since my single Colourblind went to number one in the charts.

"It was 2005 when I first stepped into the West End, as Billy Flynn in Chicago and since then I've got to work with my musical theatre heroes, Sir Trevor Nunn, Sir Tim Rice and take the lead in musicals that I've loved being part of, stories that are classic, the leading man romantic stories such as Gone With The Wind, Guys And Dolls and From Here To Eternity. Funny Girl is the jewel in the crown of musicals."

# Beverley to star in her first panto

**Beverley Knight will perform in her first-ever pantomime this year at Birmingham Hippodrome.**

**The 44-year-old actress and singer from Wolverhampton will take on the role of The Fairy Godmother in Cinderella. Other stars set to take part in the show are Strictly Come Dancing's Danny Mac, Hippodrome favourite funnyman Matt Slack, comedians The Grumbleweeds, Ceri Dupree and Phil Randall. Playing Cinderella will be Suzanne Shaw, formerly of pop group Hear'Say.**

# Young musicians are set to impress

More than 100 remarkable musicians are set to impress at Birmingham's Town Hall next Sunday afternoon (August 6), and they are all aged under 12. The National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain, which run six national age-banded orchestras and six regional youth orchestras, are bringing their under-12s to the prestigious venue for a performance of great classical works.

Led by conductor Natalia Luis-Bassa, the young musicians will present a programme including Mars from Holst's The Planets, Finlandia by Sibelius, Montagues and Capulets from Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet, music from Bizet's Carmen and the energetic Conga del Fuego Nuevo by Marquez.

Tickets start from £18 for the 3.30pm concert. For tickets see www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333.

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# SATURDAY'S TV JULY 29

## CHOICE

Crystal Yu & Charles Venn

**Casualty (BBC1, 9.05pm)**
Paul Unwin, the man who co-created Casualty back in 1986, returns as a guest writer for an episode that covers the span of an hour within Holby's Emergency Department. Duffy has her hands full as she is shadowed by a pair of school-girls planning to enter the medical profession, and Jez is crippled by guilt after he manages to rescue a woman from a house fire, but did not realise he saved her at the expense of her baby. Meanwhile, Ethan throws himself into his work following the incident with Scott, and when the ailing leader of a marching band arrives feeling unwell, Louise is forced to leave him in triage, with disastrous consequences. Last in the series.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nadiya's British Food Adventure. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Brendan Foster: A Life in Athletics. **2.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Hull FC v Leeds Rhinos (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Flog It! (R) **5.00 Film:** Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit. (1993) A singer who once posed as a nun joins the order again to help save a Catholic school by making a success of its choir. Comedy sequel, starring Whoopi Goldberg.

**6.45 BBC News.**

**6.55 Regional Programme.**

**7.00 Pointless Celebrities.** Sports stars Willie Thorne, Tony Jacklin, Andy Fordham, Deta Hedman, Tessa Sanderson, Derek Redmond, Nick Easter and Martin Offiah take part in the unorthodox quiz show. (R)

**7.50 Would I Lie to You?** Clara Amfo, Tom Davis, Shaun Ryder and Henning Wehn help team captains David Mitchell and Lee Mack deceive their opponents with plausible lies. Hosted by Rob Brydon. (R)

**8.20 Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles challenges two pairs of complete strangers to team up, and battle it out to list as much as they know about a given subject.

**9.05 Casualty.** Duffy guides a pair of school-girls through an average hour in the ED, in a special episode of the medical drama written by Casualty co-creator Paul Unwin. Last in the series.

**10.00 BBC News**; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

**10.20 Film: Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull.** (2008) The globe-trotting archaeologist teams up with a rebellious teenager who draws him into a search in the Amazon jungle for a mysterious artefact of untold power. But their quest is hindered by Soviet agents, who also want the fabled object for an altogether more sinister purpose. Action adventure sequel, updating the series to a Cold War setting, starring Harrison Ford.

**12.15 Film:** When in Rome. (2009) An unlucky-in-love woman steals coins from a supposedly magical fountain in Italy and attracts a host of potential suitors. Romantic comedy, with Kristen Bell and Josh Duhamel. **1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.10** The Deep. **6.30** The Deep. **6.55 Film:** Herbie Goes to Monte Carlo. (1977) **8.35 Film:** Mars Needs Moms. (2011) **10.00** Monty Halls' Great Irish Escape. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Nigel and Adam's Farm Kitchen. (R) **1.00** Natural World: Jungle Gremlins of Java. (R) **2.00** Mastermind. (R) **2.30** University Challenge. (R) **3.00** Only Connect. (R) **3.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **4.30** Jessica Ennis-Hill and the Next Generation. **5.00** Live Swimming: World Championships.

**6.00 Cycling: Women's Grand Prix.** Live coverage of the Prudential RideLondon Classique, which takes place on a 5.5km circuit in central London, taking in some of the city's most famous landmarks.

**6.50 Proms Extra.** Katie Derham revisits Walton's Facade from the Malcolm Sargent Prom, and celebrates the work of British composer Scott Walker. Plus, David Owen Norris' Chord of the Week.

**7.30 Grand Tours of Scotland.** Paul Murton travels round the Isle of Arran, visiting the famous King's Cave, Lochranza, Brodick Castle and Kildonan before ending his trip at Cleat's Shore. (R)

**8.00 Dad's Army.** Mainwaring decides the platoon needs a mascot for a big parade and plumps for a ram, but catching a suitable candidate for the job proves easier said than done. (R)

**8.30 All Families Have Secrets – Patrick Gale's Art of Fiction.** Patrick Gale speaks to Stephen Fry about his experience of being an out gay writer for the past 30 years, and the inspiration behind Man in an Orange Shirt, his screenwriting debut.

**9.00 Queer as Art.** The BBC's Gay Britannia season continues, as artists, writers, musicians and performers discuss the LGBT community's contributions to the arts in Britain during the past 50 years.

**10.00 QI XL.** Panellists Julia Zemiro, Matt Lucas and David Mitchell and Alan Davies compete, as host Stephen Fry hosts an extended edition of the comedy quiz show.

**10.45 Imagine – Mapplethorpe.** A portrait of American photographer Robert Mapplethorpe.

**12.40 Film:** Sleep Tight. (2011) **2.15** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.45** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** ITV Racing: The Opening Show. **10.20** Gok's Lunchbox. (R) **11.15** 1000 Heartbeats. (R) **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** Tipping Point. (R) **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Ascot. Coverage of today's meeting from Ascot. **4.00** The Chase. (R) **5.00** Little Big Shots USA.

**6.00 Regional Programme;** Weather.

**6.05 ITV News**; Weather.

**6.15 You've Been Framed! Goes Wild!** Harry Hill presents another hour-long edition of his popular programme, showcasing embarrassing home-videos and malfunctioning moments, filmed and submitted by loyal viewers. Clips feature flatulent selfies, misused contraceptives and a rather distracting wedding guest. (R)

**7.15 Catchphrase.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show, inviting contestants Steve, Charlene and Lenny to "see it and say it" as they try to guess the familiar phrases hidden in clues offered by Mr Chips and his state-of-the-art 3D graphic animations. After the first elimination, the two remaining players battle to reach the Super Catchphrase round, with a holiday and a massive £50,000 cash sum up for grabs.

**8.00 Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug.** (2013) The party of dwarves and their hobbit ally continue the quest to reclaim their lost kingdom, journeying through the forest home of ancestral enemy the elves and finally facing the dragon that drove them from their home. Meanwhile, Gandalf the wizard investigates the rise of a mysterious dark power. Part two of Peter Jackson's fantasy adventure trilogy based on JRR Tolkien's novel, starring Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage and Orlando Bloom.

**11.00 ITV News**; Weather.

**11.25 The Chase.** (R)

**12.20** Jackpot247. **3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.40** Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. **7.05** London Triathlon. **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.30** Big House, Little House. **5.30** Channel 4 News.

**6.00 Formula 1 Hungarian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.** Steve Jones presents action from the qualifying session at the Hungaroring in Budapest, where the drivers battled for pole position ahead of the 11th round of the season. It was the Mercedes drivers who performed best in qualifying at this track last season, with the now-retired Nico Rosberg claiming pole position, and Lewis Hamilton one place behind in second on the starting grid.

**7.30 UEFA Women's Euro 2017.** Coverage of a quarter-final match (Kick-off TBA), featuring teams that were drawn in Groups A and B, as the competition staged in the Netherlands continues. The team to emerge victorious from this match will progress to one of the semi-finals, which are due to take place on Thursday. Subsequent programmes are subject to change.

**10.00 Film: 47 Ronin.** (2013) A former slave leads a band of samurai as they battle monstrous and magical enemies in a quest for redemption. Fantasy adventure, with Keanu Reeves and Hiroyuki Sanada.

**12.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. Gordon Ramsay visits a restaurant in Providence, Rhode Island. (R) **1.00** The Last Leg. Comedy legend John Cleese joins Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker for a comical review of the week. (R) **1.55** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Grace prepares to take down her and Warren's blackmailer, Alfie tries to help Lily and Prince, and Sally surprises Neeta with a ticket to Ibiza. **3.55** Location, Location, Location. Helping prospective buyers in Wiltshire. (R) **4.50** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. Three homeowners in West Sussex compete to sell their homes. (R) **5.40** Shipping Wars UK. Russell moves 15 unique giraffe artworks worth £75,000. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **9.20 Film:** Bob the Builder: Mega Machines. (2017) Premiere. Construction-site animation, with the voice of Lee Ingleby. **10.30** Funniest Cutest Kittens Ever. (R) **11.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.25 Film:** The Time Machine. (2002) Sci-fi adventure, starring Guy Pearce. **3.10** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.10** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.05** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

**6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Documentary series giving an insight into the world of debt collection. Kevin Stokes and Brian O'Shaughnessy try to collect a debt from a technology company, but with the director nowhere to be seen, the office manager does everything she can to prove the business is no longer trading. Stewart McCracken and Elmor Victor face a heartbreaking house repossession in Merseyside, where two landlords are forced to evict a tenant recovering from a brain tumour which has cost him his job and income. (R)

**7.00 Cricket on 5.** England v South Africa. Highlights of the third day's play in the Third Test of the four-match series, which took place at The Oval in London.

**7.55 5 News Weekend.**

**8.00 Live Boxing.** Coverage from the SSE Arena in Belfast, ahead of the main event between Carl Frampton and Andres Gutierrez.

**8.30 FIA Formula E Live.** The first Montreal ePrix race. Coverage of the first of two races staged at the Montreal Street Circuit, which serves as the 11th and penultimate round of the season. This is a brand new circuit set in the centre of the Canadian city, and features 14 turns in a lap that is 2.75km long.

**10.10 Live Boxing.** Carl Frampton v Andres Gutierrez. Coverage of the featherweight bout from SSE Arena in Belfast, as The Jackal returns to the ring for the first time since losing his world title.

**12.00** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.05 Film:** Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans. (2009) Crime drama, starring Nicolas Cage. **5.00** Great Artists. Spanish painter Velazquez. (R) **5.25** Wildlife SOS. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**

**7.00** The Secret Life of Rockpools **8.00** Britain's Treasure Islands **9.00** I Know Who You Are **11.30** Rich Hall's Countrier Than You **1.00** Bob Harris: My Nashville **2.00** The Secret Life of Rockpools **3.00** Britain's Treasure Islands **4.00** Close

**ITV2**

**11.25** Take Me Out **12.35** Catchphrase: Celebrity Special **1.40** Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule **2.05** You've Been Framed! Gold **3.10 Film:** See Spot Run (2001) **4.10** FYI Daily **4.15 Film:** See Spot Run (2001) **5.05 Film:** The Smurfs 2 (2013) **6.05** FYI Daily **6.10 Film:** The Smurfs 2 (2013) **7.10 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **8.10** FYI Daily **8.15 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **9.00 Film:** The Hangover (2009) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** The Hangover (2009) **11.05** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.00 Film:** Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) **2.00** FYI Daily **2.05 Film:** Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

**ITV3**

**11.30 Film:** Columbo: Agenda for Murder (1990) **1.30** Wycliffe **2.45** Sherlock Holmes: The Last Vampyre **5.00** Lewis **7.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Law & Order: UK **1.55** On the Buses **2.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

**ITV4**

**11.00** The Professionals **1.05** Minder **3.15 Film:** Dunkirk (1958) **4.25** FYI Daily **4.30 Film:** Dunkirk (1958) **6.00** Better Late Than Never **7.00** Monster Carp **8.00 Film:** Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **9.05** FYI Daily **9.10 Film:** Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **9.50 Film:** The Book of Eli (2010) **10.55** FYI Daily **11.00 Film:** The Book of Eli (2010) **12.05 Film:** Barb Wire (1996) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10 Film:** Barb Wire (1996) **2.05** Road Racing Series **3.00** Teleshopping

**E4**

**11.40 Film:** Astro Boy (2009) **1.30 Film:** Toy Story OF TERROR! (2013) **2.00** The Goldbergs **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** This Is 40 (2012) **11.40** Gogglebox **1.20** Rude Tube **2.25** Tattoo Fixers **3.20** Gogglebox **4.00** How I Met Your Mother **4.45** Rude(ish) Tube

**Film4**

**11.00** Bollywood Queen (2002) **1.00** A Monster in Paris (2011) **2.45** Baby's Day Out (1994) **4.35** We Bought a Zoo (2011) **7.00** The Way Way Back (2013) Comedy drama, starring Liam James. **9.00** The Green Mile (1999) **12.40** As Above, So Below (2014) **2.25** Rec 3: Genesis (2012) **4.00** Close

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# SUNDAY'S TV JULY 30

## CHOICE

Aidan Turner

**Poldark (BBC1, 9pm)**
Ross is determined to ensure that George loses in the election, and resolves to make up for some of Trenwith's neglect - he also becomes aware of Hugh's feelings for Demelza as he returns to Nampara to find them together. George is consumed with paranoia as he challenges Dwight over Valentine's legitimacy and drives Elizabeth away. Rowella attempts to seduce Whitworth, who receives advice from Dwight over his relationship with Morwenna, Lord Falmouth learns that the Warleggans will be standing against him, and Sam pines over Emma.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Cycling: Ride London. **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Songs of Praise. **3.35** Cycling: Ride London. Live coverage of the Prudential RideLondon-Surrey Classic.
**6.35 BBC News.**
**6.50 Regional Programme.**
**7.00 Wild Alaska Live.** Liz Bonnin, Matt Baker and Steve Backshall conclude the coverage of Alaskan wildlife during the summer. The programme features footage of black bear cubs trying to catch enough food to make it through the winter, wolves competing with brown bears for the best fishing positions, orcas and humpback whales gathering at sea, and eagles hunting as the salmon complete their migration. Last in the series.
**8.00 Countryfile.** A look at green spaces and wildlife in urban areas. Anita Rani visits a haven for animals in Stoke Newington, and helps an urban photographer track a pair of nesting common terns. Sean Fletcher joins Manchester airport's environment team, James Wong meets Liverpool residents growing vegetables on their roofs, Tom Heap investigates air pollution, and Adam Henson meets former services personnel rebuilding their lives through farming.
**9.00 Poldark.** Ross becomes aware of Hugh's feelings for Demelza, George is consumed with paranoia as he challenges Dwight over Valentine's legitimacy and drives Elizabeth away.
**10.00 BBC News.**
**10.20 Regional Programme.**
**10.30 The Heroes of Super Saturday: Jess, Mo & Greg.** Michael Johnson takes a look back at the day of competition known as "Super Saturday" at the 2012 Olympic Games, focusing on Jessica Ennis-Hill, Mo Farah and Greg Rutherford.
**11.30 Film: The Peacemaker.** (1997) Two mismatched government operatives are forced to put aside their differences to find a stolen cache of nuclear warheads. Action thriller, with George Clooney.
**1.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.30** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.05** A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.50** The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.35** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.05** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) **12.00** Food & Drink. (R) **12.30 Film:** Miss Potter. (2006) Victorian writer and illustrator Beatrix Potter falls in love while trying to find a publisher for her work. Biographical period drama, starring Renee Zellweger and Ewan McGregor. **2.00** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Wigan Warriors v Salford Red Devils (Kick-off 2.30pm). Tanya Arnold presents coverage of the second semi-final, which takes place at Halliwell Jones Stadium in Warrington. **4.30** Live Swimming: World Championships. Helen Skelton presents coverage of the eighth and final day from Danube Arena in Budapest, Hungary, which will include the finals of the men's and women's 400m individual medley.
**7.00 World War One Remembered: Passchendaele.** Kirsty Young introduces live coverage from Flanders, Belgium, of the ceremony commemorating the 100th anniversary of the First World War battle. This is followed by a dramatic event staged in Ypres that tells the story of the battle and those involved in it, as well as performances from Alfie Boe, War Horse and the cast of The Wipers' Times. Dan Snow reports from the streets of Ypres.
**10.00 Film: Pride.** (2014) Gay rights activists gather in London for a pride march in 1984, and decide they have a common cause with the miners' strike. When their fundraising activities are rejected by the miners' union, they travel to a Welsh pit village to show their support in person. Fact-based drama, starring Ben Schnetzer, Bill Nighy, Andrew Scott and Imelda Staunton.
**11.50 Film: Lilting.** (2014) The mother and boyfriend of a dead man form a connection as they deal with their grief, despite having no language in common. Drama, with Ben Whishaw and Pei-pei Cheng.
**1.15** Sign Zone: Countryfile. John Craven visits a conservation project for great bustards in Salisbury Plain, while Anita Rani meets contestants in the international young beekeepers' competition. (R) **2.10** Holby City. Drama series charting life on the wards of Holby City Hospital. (R) **3.10** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Ninjago: Rebooted. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **10.20** Long Lost Family. (R) **11.20** Love Your Garden. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** James Martin's French Adventure. (R) **12.55** Rebound. (R) **1.55** Tipping Point. (R) **2.55** Bear Grylls Survival School. **3.25 Film:** A View to a Kill. (1985) James Bond adventure, starring Roger Moore.
**6.00 Regional Programme;** Weather.
**6.10 ITV News**; Weather.
**6.30 Diana, Our Mother: Her Life and Legacy.** The Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry talk about their mother Diana, Princess of Wales, and pay tribute to the many ways her influence has shaped their lives. The brothers share some of their earliest memories of her, recall the final contact they had with her before her death in August 1997 and discuss their feelings in the aftermath of that event. Featuring contributions from Elton John, Rihanna and Diana's brother, Earl Spencer. (R)
**8.00 Film: Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix.** (2007) The young wizard struggles to convince his fellow sorcerers that the evil Lord Voldemort has returned to life. When Hogwarts headmaster Dumbledore is ousted in favour of a sadistic replacement, Harry realises he must take matters into his own hands, uniting his fellow pupils to form a secret army and training them for the inevitable confrontation to come. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint and Gary Oldman.
**10.30 ITV News**; Weather.
**10.50 Judge Rinder's Crime Stories.** Barrister Robert Rinder examines real-life cases, looking at the events leading up to crimes, going through the police investigations and summing up the trials. (R)
**11.50 Take Me Out.** Men try to impress 30 single women and win a date. Paddy McGuinness presents. (R)
**12.50** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.20** Last Man Standing. **6.45** Last Man Standing. **7.10** Last Man Standing. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Eat the Week. **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. (R) **3.40** Homes by the Sea. (R) **4.45** Channel 4 News. **5.15** Formula 1 Hungarian Grand Prix Highlights.
**7.30 UEFA Women's Euro 2017.** Coverage of a quarter-final match (Kick-off TBA), featuring teams that were drawn in Groups C and D, as the competition staged in the Netherlands continues. The team to emerge victorious from this match will progress to one of the semi-finals, which are due to take place on Thursday. Subsequent programmes are subject to change.
**10.00 The Handmaid's Tale.** Janine is sentenced to a brutal punishment for her acts of disobedience, which leaves Offred and her fellow Handmaids faced with an unthinkable choice. Last in the series.
**11.10 Naked Attraction.** Anna Richardson hosts as 22-year-old Sophie seeks a conversational man, while 25-year-old Dom hopes to find a confident, daring and adventurous man. (R)
**12.15 Film:** Moonrise Kingdom. (2012) The inhabitants of an island community are thrown into a panic as they search for two runaway children. Wes Anderson's comedy drama, with Bruce Willis and Edward Norton. **1.50** 60 Days in Jail. Criminal justice student Dion is the last volunteer to enter the jail. (R) **2.35** KOTV Boxing Weekly. Featuring highlights of bouts in England, Russia, Mexico and the United States. **3.05** Gillette World Sport. Including a look at how New England Patriots' Devin McCourty stays in top condition. **3.30** Mobil 1 The Grid. Max Verstappen provides a tour of the Red Bull factory in Milton Keynes. (R) **3.55** Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer visit the south-east of England to help a family of five in need of a larger property, and new parents searching for a home. (R) **4.50** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. The host helps three homeowners in Worthing compete to sell their properties to potential buyer Diane, including mother and daughter Jo and Ruby who improve their attic. (R) **5.45** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Pip Ahoy! **6.10** Poppy Cat. **6.25** Mr Men. **6.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.50** Wissper. (R) **6.55** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.10** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.20** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.30** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.35** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.40** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.55** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.25** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.40** Wissper. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10 Film:** Fireman Sam: Heroes of the Storm. (2014) **10.30** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 3. **10.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.50** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.50 Film:** Ace Ventura: Pet Detective. (1994) Comedy, starring Jim Carrey. **2.30 Film:** Zookeeper. (2011) Comedy, starring Kevin James. **4.25 Film:** Cheaper By the Dozen 2. (2005)
**6.05 Now That's Funny!** A collection of internet-sourced videos with a family friendly hook, featuring laugh-out-loud unexpected personal moments now being shared with the world. (R)
**7.00 Cricket on 5.** England v South Africa. Highlights of the fourth day's play in the Third Test of the four-match series, which took place at The Oval in London.
**7.55 5 News Weekend.**
**8.00 Film: Dirty Dancing.** (1987) A dance instructor at a 1960s resort teaches a naive teenager about self-expression as they perform in an important show. Romantic drama, with Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. Edited for language and violence.
**9.00 5 News Update.**
**9.05 Film: Dirty Dancing.** (1987) Concluded. Edited for language and violence.
**10.05 The Dirty Dancing Story.** A 30th anniversary celebration of the movie phenomenon, revisiting favourite scenes, discovering what happened on set and hearing from the supporting cast and crew. (R)
**11.35 Premiership Rugby Sevens.** Action from the pre-season tournament at Franklin's Gardens in Northampton, which saw all 12 Premiership clubs compete in a revamped version of the tournament.
**12.35** FIA Formula E: Highlights. **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Hotel Inspector Abroad. (R) **4.00** The Railways That Built Britain with Chris Tarrant. (R) **4.50** Great Artists. (R) **5.20** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.45** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**
**7.00** Laura Mvula on Nina Simone **7.30** BBC Proms 2017 **11.30** Norman Wisdom: His Story **12.30** Horizon: 10 Things You Need to Know About the Future **1.30** Beautiful Thing: A Passion for Porcelain **2.30** Treasures of the Anglo-Saxons **3.30** Laura Mvula on Nina Simone **4.00** Close
**ITV2**
**1.00** You've Been Framed! Gold **1.30 Film:** The Waterboy (1998) **2.30** FYI Daily **2.35 Film:** The Waterboy (1998) **3.20 Film:** Yogi Bear (2010) **4.20** FYI Daily **4.25 Film:** Yogi Bear (2010) **4.55 Film:** Nanny McPhee (2005) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00 Film:** Nanny McPhee (2005) **6.50 Film:** Step Up (2006) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00 Film:** Step Up (2006) **9.00** Love Island: The Reunion **10.35** Family Guy **12.00** American Dad! **12.30 Film:** Bachelorette (2012) **1.30** FYI Daily **1.35 Film:** Bachelorette (2012) **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen
**ITV3**
**11.45** The Darling Buds of May **12.50 Film:** Rest in Peace, Mrs Columbo (1990) **2.50** Wycliffe **3.55** Foyle's War **6.00** Lewis **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Law & Order: UK **12.05** Wire in the Blood **2.00** Sherlock Holmes: The Last Vampyre **3.45** May the Best House Win
**ITV4**
**6.00** Goodwood Festival of Speed **7.00** Football Rivalries **7.15 Film:** Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **8.20** FYI Daily **8.25 Film:** Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **9.00 Film:** The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad! (1988) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad! (1988) **10.50 Film:** Mars Attacks! (1996) **11.50** FYI Daily **11.55 Film:** Mars Attacks! (1996) **1.00** Car Crash Global **2.00** Minder **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
**E4**
**12.00** Binky & JP's Baby: Born in Chelsea **1.00** Kevin Can Wait **1.30** New Girl **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **5.30 Film:** The Day After Tomorrow (2004) **8.00** Don't Tell the Bride **9.00** Born in Chelsea: Baby Steps **10.00 Film:** The Change-Up (2011) **12.15** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **1.20** Born in Chelsea: Baby Steps **2.25** Gogglebox
**Film4**
**11.00** Flight of the Navigator (1986) **1.00** The Jane Austen Book Club (2007) **3.05** Gulliver's Travels (2010) **4.45** The Return of the Musketeers (1989) **6.55** Home Alone (1990) **9.00** Lucy (2014) **10.40** The Family (2013) **12.55** Devil's Knot (2013) **3.15** Close

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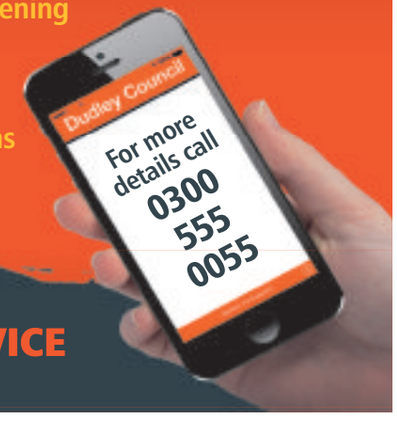



Dudley

DUDLEY HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICE

# PICK OF THE WEEK

## FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**
**I Am Bolt, BBC1, 8.30pm**
Documentary about the life and career of world-record breaking Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt, who has won the 100m and 200m gold medals at the last three Olympics. The film follows him as he prepares for the Rio 2016 Olympics and there is archive footage of his personal life and from his athletics career. (2016)

**TUESDAY**
**A Trace of Danger, Channel 5, 3.15pm**
A defence attorney represents her high-school boyfriend, who stands accused of murdering his wife. As they discover they still have feelings for each other, the lawyer faces being a public hate figure as everyone is convinced of her client's guilt – while someone is determined to stop the truth being discovered. Thriller, starring Emmanuelle Vaugier. (2010)

Old School, Friday, BBC1, 11.05pm

**WEDNESDAY**
**Man Up, BBC2, 9pm**
While traveling across London to attend a party to celebrate her parents' 10th wedding anniversary, a thirtysomething single woman is mistaken for a recently divorced stranger's blind date, so decides to spend a chaotic evening with him. However, she has to face the consequences when he realises she is not his intended blind date. Romantic comedy, starring Lake Bell and Simon Pegg. (2015)

**THURSDAY**
**Out of Reach, Channel 5, 3.10pm**
A woman faces having her family torn apart when her husband enters into a business arrangement with two lifestyle coaches, only to end up joining their cult of followers. She struggles to get him away from their influence, but the conflict grows more serious when the sect tries to gain custody of her daughter. Thriller, starring Erin Karpluk and Lochlyn Munro. (2013)

**FRIDAY**
**Old School, BBC1, 11.05pm**
A lawyer decides to relive the wild, crazy days of his youth after his girlfriend is unfaithful, and enlists the help of two equally disillusioned friends in setting up a fraternity house next to his former college campus. Comedy, starring Luke Wilson and Will Ferrell. (2003)

## Patrick is hoping that his new project is a novel success

Patrick Gale is the BBC's man of the moment.

On Saturday, he was interviewed by Stephen Fry, a self-confessed fan of Gale's novels for the past 30 years.

During their chat, Gale discussed being a rare example of an out gay novelist during his early years as a writer, as well as his most ambitious project to date, Man in an Orange Shirt.

This two-part drama is Gale's first screenplay, and while he has always mined his family history for his work, this time he dug deeper than ever before, to expose a secret about his parents' marriage.

The story focuses on two love affairs, 60 years apart. The first is set in 1944, during which British Army Captain Michael Berryman falls for artist Thomas March following a chance meeting in southern Italy.

Despite having a young fiancée, the usually strait-laced Michael throws himself into a relationship with Thomas, and they briefly live as a couple after the war. Thomas paints his lover's portrait – the titular Man in an Orange Shirt – before Michael decides to return to Flora and live a conventional life as a married man and father.

Thomas, meanwhile, embarks on a risky existence as a gay man in 1940s Soho. But will either of them be truly happy again? And at what lengths will Flora go to keep her new family together?

The story then moves to the present day, as an ageing Flora witnesses her grandson's tentative relationship with another man is a far more accepting world. However, their path to happiness is still littered with potential pitfalls.

"Man In An Orange Shirt is the most exciting project I've worked on to date: an original drama exploring strands of gay male experience since the 1940s," says Gale. "It has been such a privilege to be given such an open brief and then allowed to run with it.

"I don't want to give too much away but after much experimenting, we've ended up with two hour-long films - one set in the 1940s and 50s, one set in the violently contrasted present; one depicting a love story made impossible by pressures from society, one a love story nearly derailed by the long-term fallout from the 1940s story."

He adds: "People who know my novels will be unsurprised to hear that that stories give equal focus to wives and mothers and are very much about tensions between family bonds, the need to be good and the urge to seize happiness. I hope they'll appeal equally to straight and gay viewers, but also that they'll leave either side feeling challenged about things they take for granted.

"Already I can see that the look of the show is going to be incredible. Here's hoping it starts a national conversation."

It promises to be an enthralling and moving series, one that benefits from a strong cast that includes Vanessa Redgrave and Joanna Vanderham as Flora at different stages in her life.

Man in an Orange Shirt, Monday, BBC2, 9pm

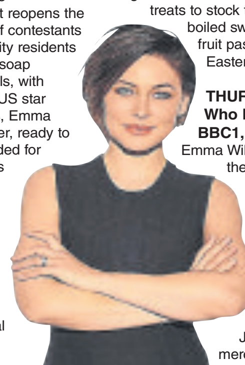
# BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**
**Orkney: When the Boat Comes In**
**BBC1, 7.30pm**
The small island chain off the north-eastern tip of Scotland will be visited by more than 120,000 passengers from cruise liners, and on its busiest days the capital Kirkwall will see its population of 7,000 almost double. As part of the Our Lives strand, this documentary focuses on the impact of these tourists on the lives of Orcadians, with their arrival bringing much-needed revenue but also a growing concern about the environmental impact and for Orkney's world famous Neolithic sites, including Skara Brae.

**Normal for Norfolk**
**BBC2, 10pm**
It's October at 17th-century manor house Wiveton Hall and pigeons are attacking the rape crop, the pigs are being prepared for their journey to the abattoir, and Desmond MacCarthy is trying to cajole his 101-year-old mother into buying him a new pair of binoculars for his impending 60th birthday. While Desmond does battle with the pests on his fields, his friends and family gather for birthday celebration complete with a meal of home-made cockerel korma with poppadoms. Narrated by Toby Jones.

**TUESDAY**
**Celebrity Big Brother: Live Launch**
**Channel 5, 9pm**
New series. As one door closes, another one opens. Just seven days after Channel 5 crowned its latest Big Brother winner, it reopens the house to make way for a fresh batch of contestants – but this time, of course, the new reality residents are all famous faces. Cue a roll call of soap actors, reality stars and glamour models, with the odd Loose Women presenter and US star thrown in for good measure. As always, Emma Willis introduces each one as they enter, ready to have their every word and move recorded for the enjoyment of the viewing public. It's to be hoped BB fans don't have anything else planned for the next few weeks.

**WEDNESDAY**
**The Sweet Makers: A Victorian Treat**
**BBC2, 8pm**
Four modern confectioners use original recipes to recreate a Victorian sweet shop, and discover how the quest to satisfy our national sweet tooth transformed Britain. Guided by food historian Dr Annie Gray and social historian Emma Dabiri, the sweet-makers head to Blists Hill, Shropshire, to experience first-hand the life of confectioners in late 19th and early 20th century England. The team recreate a range of Victorian treats to stock their sweet shop, from jars of boiled sweets to their own version of fruit pastilles, and an enormous Easter egg. Last in the series.


Celebrity Big Brother: Live Launch, Tuesday, Channel 5, 9pm

**THURSDAY**
**Who Do You Think You Are?**
**BBC1, 9pm**
Emma Willis is the latest to take part in the popular genealogy documentary, in which famous faces trace their family trees. The TV presenter, who considers herself a true Brummie, is keen to learn more about her family in Birmingham, tracing back to Victorian times and her hard-working ancestor James Gretton, a local merchant. The Big Brother host then learns that her father's grandmother was born in Ireland. Surprised to hear of this new line of ancestry, Emma heads across to Dublin to find out more – but she is disturbed by what she learns.

**FRIDAY**
**World Athletics Championships 2017**
**BBC1, 7pm**
Gabby Logan presents coverage of the opening night of events at The London Stadium in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, which will include the men's 10,000m final, as well as the opening round of heats in the men's 100m and women's 1500m. Great Britain's Mo Farah is expected to compete in the men's 10,000m as he attempts to add to the tally of gold medals he has claimed in this event at both the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games, and the 2015 World Championships. Meanwhile, his compatriot Laura Muir will look to continue the incredible form that saw her win double gold in the 1500m and 3,000m at the European Indoor Championships earlier this year, while the biggest star in athletics, Usain Bolt, will begin his quest for gold in his final appearance at this Championships. With commentary and analysis from Brendan Foster, Andrew Cotter, Steve Cram, Paula Radcliffe, Michael Johnson, Denise Lewis, Colin Jackson, and Steve Backley.

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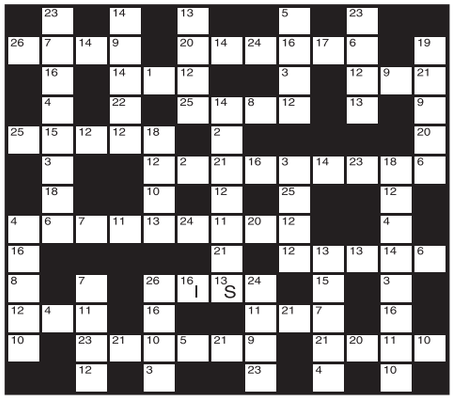
# BRAIN GYM

No.440

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



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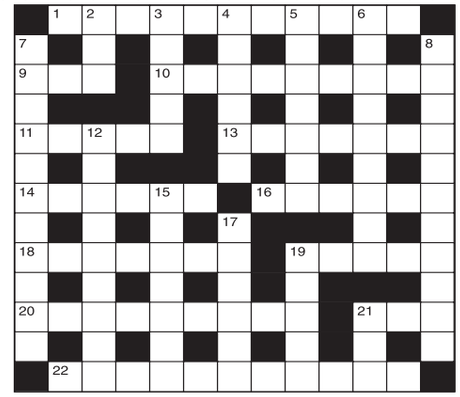
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 M | 2 Y | 3 X | 4 O | 5 L | 6 Z | 7 N | 8 J | 9 R | 10 A | 11 T | 12 V | 13 K |
| 14 H | 15 G | 16 U | 17 S | 18 Q | 19 D | 20 P | 21 C | 22 I | 23 E | 24 F | 25 W | 26 B |

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



### Cryptic Clues:

**Across**

1. Pocket money makes very little difference (5,6)
9. Joint invitation to cheer (3)
10. Took the main course but possibly not a sweet (4,2,3)
11. Area measures, out of doors (5)
13. Is it for the fleet-footed? (4,3)
14. Business concern (6)
16. Church worker with grave responsibilities (6)
18. Fresh suet not exported (4,3)
19. City of legendary character (5)
20. A leader of opinion (9)
21. Sign held by Cleopatra (3)
22. Be confident, sleep is guaranteed (4,7)

**Down**

2. Plan a letter to mother (3)
3. Statute has two points that need cutting (5)
4. Recent change of heart (6)
5. Performer makes a start that is different (7)
6. Perhaps most agree it may well be an eyesore (9)
7. A cutting response (5,6)
8. Bullet that meant goodbye for someone? (7,4)
12. Insulting attack (9)
15. Decrease one's difficulties (4,3)
17. Steps inside? (6)
19. Paul and I cooked a foreign dish (5)
21. A swimmer comes up for shelter (3)

### Quick Clues:

**Across**

1. Solid (11)
9. Cereal plant (3)
10. Consideration (9)
11. Swift (5)
13. Flow from (7)
14. Option (6)
16. Counsel (6)
18. Rival (7)
19. Tinted (5)
20. Hold back (9)
21. Marshlands (3)
22. Plundering (11)

**Down**

2. Employ (3)
3. Inadequate (5)
4. Sacred song (6)
5. Drinking vessel (7)
6. Excitement (9)
7. Expertness (11)
8. Self-reliant (11)
12. Persuasive speech (9)
15. Prattle (7)
17. Look at (6)
19. Dogma (5)
21. Distant (3)

## Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | | | 1 | | | 7 | 6 | |
| | 6 | | 2 | | | | | 5 |
| 5 | | 7 | | | 6 | | | |
| | | | 4 | | | 6 | 5 | |
| | 4 | 8 | | 6 | | 2 | | 7 |
| | 1 | 5 | | | 2 | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | 9 | | 4 |
| 7 | | | 3 | | 4 | | | |
| | 3 | 1 | | | 8 | | 7 | 2 |

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 2 |
| 3 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 4 |
| 2 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| 6 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 8 |
| 7 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 5 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 3 |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 9 |
| 5 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 7 |

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Most; 3 Placated; 9 Droplet; 10 Moult; 11 Catty remarks; 13 Nought; 15 Adhere; 17 Schoolfellow; 20 Icing; 21 Patient; 22 Canonise; 23 Rear.
Down: 1 Medicine; 2 Stout; 4 Latter; 5 Commandments; 6 Truckle; 7 Duty; 8 Play the organ; 12 Sea water; 14 Unction; 16 Elopes; 18 Liege; 19 Zinc.
QUICK - Across: 1 Rage; 3 Treatise; 9 Sparing; 10 Catch; 11 Misinforming; 13 Notify; 15 Allege; 17 Concomitance; 20 Begin; 21 Aconite; 22 Tethered; 23 Heat.
Down: 1 Resuming; 2 Glass; 4 Region; 5 Accumulation; 6 Intense; 7 Echo; 8 Significance; 12 Vehement; 14 Thought; 16 Impale; 18 Naive; 19 Abet.

## Quiz

1. Who was Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures from 1945 to 1973?
2. What is a tonka?
3. To which family of mammals does the vicuna belong?
4. Which planet's year is equivalent to 84 of our years?
5. Which country's national assembly is the Cortes?
6. In the Arabian Nights, who escapes from the Old Man of the Sea?
7. What is the USA's Beaver State?
8. What type of tree is the sweet bay?
9. What record fee did Manchester United pay for Andy Cole?
10. Of which planet is Deimos a moon?

**Last week's solutions:**

**Quiz:** 1 Apollo; 2 Weightlifting; 3 Hydrogen; 4 Tiggy; 5 Pyongyang; 6 Very high frequency; 7 Bronze Age; 8 Anthony Burgess; 9 Parkhurst; 10 Carmen Miranda.

**Niner:** PARTICLES

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

**87553** gives a religious man,
**531264** gives a religious man,
**5789** gives a poet.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | |

# Plain sailing – with luxuries on tap

This is the life! OK so it's an expression I've nicked off a well-known TV and radio advert. But, unlike that, I am not referring to an expensive cruise.

Remember the old days caravanning with the family, happy times, but would you want to go back to the cramped conditions and trekking across fields in the middle of the night to the washroom? No way!

These days holiday sites and the latest mobile homes are more like being on a cruise ship – minus the sea of course! I recently spent a week in the New Forest area at Hoburne Bashley in a caravan that was sheer luxury. My husband and I admired the countryside as we weaved our way along the roads with the ponies on either side – or sometimes in the middle of the road. Well it is their home after all.

The journey down there had been virtually trouble free in the sunshine and as we opened the door to our new home for the week the outlook got even brighter.

Step inside this top-rated two bedroom mobile home – new for this season – and it is really is home from home with all the mod cons, including a dishwasher, washing machine, TV in each room and a beautifully-finished large lounge.

But the best was yet to come. As I cornered out of the main bedroom to go into the en suite I found a lovely dressing area – something I would love to have at home – are you listening hubby! Combine that with the outside decking area, perfect for eating al fresco or relaxing with a glass of wine, and you can forget the cruise cabin, this suited me just fine.

And there was so much to do on the site – indoor and outdoor swimming pools, tennis courts, a beautifully kept nine-hole golf course and plenty more for the little ones, as well as a restaurant on site and evening shows from the very talented entertainments team.

Lovely outdoor pool close to the indoor one

Sheer luxury – lounge area is very spacious

I remember fondly previous holidays at the various Hoburne sites and although this time it was different with no little ones in tow it was lovely in a different way as two good friends joined us for a few days. In fact the company does also offer adult-only holidays but personally I love to see the kids enjoying themselves.

We were lucky to have brilliant weather all week so ventured out to the many places nearby. Bournemouth is just down the coast. But we headed closer to the site to the lovely towns of Lymington and Ringwood and the nearby beaches. Of course we could not be in the area without visiting the popular Beaulieu Motor Museum, with the earliest motor carriages to classic family saloons, and its sister attraction, the unspoilt haven of Buckler's Hard which remains a 'living' village.

Closer to the site, in fact just down the road in New Milton, is the fascinating Sammy Miller Motorcycle Museum, well worth a visit. Don't think that just because you are not an avid biking fan you won't enjoy this as there are so many other items from across the years on show. On the way to shop at Ringwood we stopped off at the quaint village of Burley and spent a fun afternoon on the murder mystery trail.

The last day, feeling energetic, we hired bikes from The Woods Cyclery in Lyndhurst and headed off through the forest. Back on site my husband went off to get yet MORE golf practice while I enjoyed unwinding in the sauna and jacuzzi. As I said this is the life!

* For details go to www.hoburne.com

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## Choose from a selection of shows

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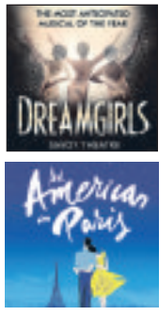
Not all shows are available on all breaks. Please call for details.

NOW INCLUDING GREAT NEW WEST END SHOWS TO CHOOSE FROM




### Saturday Night London Theatre

Selected Saturday departures throughout 2017

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✓ Free time in London

2 days, by coach from £159.95pp

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Selected Saturday departures throughout 2017

Price Includes...
✓ Overnight stay at a 4 star hotel within 20 miles of central London with 3-course evening meal and full English breakfast
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✓ Free time in London

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Single room supplement £30pp. Subject to availability.

Quote Code: QKL132

## NEW YEAR London Theatre

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✔ A Stalls or Circle ticket for a choice of top London West End Shows on Saturday 30 December (ticket upgrades available)
✔ Dinner and after dinner disco/dance in your hotel on New Year's Eve
✔ Excursion to central London to see the New Year's Day Parade
✔ Free time in London

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For more information or to book, please call: 01902 902165

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# PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

## Well-presented family home in sought-after spot

**Immaculately presented and beautifully improved, 60 Ploverdale Crescent, 'Sandpipers', Kingswinford, is a David Payne family home, delightfully located on a sought-after development.**

Having four bedrooms, it is for sale through Taylors at £279,950.

Gently elevated, it is positioned behind a generous driveway leading to a car port and garage. To the rear is a very pleasant private garden which includes generous patio area with with lawns beyond.

The accommodation is very well appointed and tastefully decorated throughout including a re-fitted kitchen with appliances, re-fitted ground floor cloakroom/WC, re-appointed en-suite and house bathroom. With viewings strongly recommended, this house also has gas central heating and replacement double glazing.

In more detail the reception hall has stairs off and the guest WC has a white suite. Large and impressive, the lounge has a bay window and a feature fireplace with a living-flame-effect fire. The dining room has doors leading out to the rear garden.

Being beautifully appointed, the re-fitted kitchen has a range of oak-finished shaker style units with work tops and integrated appliances. An archway leads to the utility room.

Upstairs, off the first floor landing, bedroom one is positioned to the rear, having a built-in mirror fronted wardrobes and an en-suite shower room. Bedroom two overlooks the front, while bedroom three has views over the rear garden, while bedroom four is positioned to the front. The re-fitted house bathroom has a classic white suite.

Outside, the property is gently elevated and set back from the road beyond the front lawn with the broad and recently laid tarmac driveway with an attractive block paved edging, providing ample off-road parking and gated access to the rear garden.

## KINGSWINFORD £279,950

### TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

**AGENT: Taylors Estate Agents**
**TEL: 01384 401777**
**EMAIL: kingswinford@taylors-estateagents.co.uk**

### KEY FEATURES

- Immaculately presented
- Beautifully improved detached
- 4 bedrooms
- Bathroom/guest WC/en-suite
- Refitted kitchen & bathroom

# He's sold

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- **Local area knowledge**
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- **Solid marketing advice to help you sell fast**

If you are thinking of selling, look no further than the estate agents in these pages for the best local advice available.

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the property professionals

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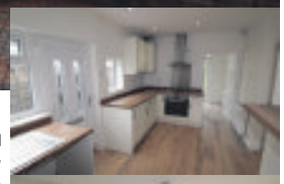

LANESFIELD , Ward Grove

ABSOLUTELY TRANSFORMED! - Fully modernised, renovated and improved freehold gas centrally heated (recent system with combi boiler) UPVC double glazed semi-detached bungalow most conveniently situated within WALKING DISTANCE of so many day-to-day amenities. Room arrangements have been imaginatively reconfigured to provide a spacious refitted 'hub of the house' kitchen with a fine range of cream finish units and many integrated appliance's, lounge with bay, walk in store, two bedrooms (one with double French doors out to the garden), reappointed shower room with contemporary white suite/chrome detailing. Herringbone pattern block paved foregarden given ample space for parking and a sheltered rear garden. EPC:D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £131,500

www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk Follow us on:

# PROPERTY

## Semi-detached has three good-sized bedrooms

**A deceptively spacious modern semi-detached house in Cross Street, Wall Heath, comes with three good-sized bedrooms.**

It is for sale through Taylors at £192,500.

Close to schools and village shops, this is an extended family home which is in a sought-after location.

Having a generous layout of well-appointed accommodation, this property includes an entrance porch, a reception hall, a full width lounge through to a dining room extension, a re-fitted kitchen, three good-sized bedrooms and a shower room.

WALL HEATH
£192,500

It also has gas central heating and double glazing.

The property is further enhanced by the full-width driveway, integral garage and an attractively laid out rear garden.

In more detail the lounge has a feature fireplace and the kitchen has white units.

The selling agents are expecting a lot of interest to be shown in the sale of this home.

**For further information, or to book a viewing to see if this is the ideal next home for you, contact the selling agents, Taylors, on 01902 880888.**

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Also at Stourbridge and Halesowen

### HIMLEY, Bridgnorth Road

A PERIOD DETACHED FAMILY RESIDENCE offering an EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS layout, RECENTLY IMPROVED comprising: Porch, Hall, large Lounge, formal Dining Room, Second Sitting Room, spacious Dining / Kitchen, Utility, Guest Cloaks/WC, FIVE BEDROOMS and SPACIOUS FAMILY BATHROOM. LARGE DRIVE, GARAGE and BROAD REAR GARDEN private and sunny. EPC D

New price £425,000

### LOWER GORNAL, Cedarwood Road, Thornleigh

AMAZING FLOOR SPACE & TREMENDOUS GARDEN! Effectively unique gas centrally heated double glazed THREE/FOUR BEDROOM family home upon magnificent corner plot abutting woodland comprising; entrance vestibule, hall, various stores, 25ft lounge/dining room, refitted breakfast kitchen, sitting room, potential, fourth bedroom, bathroom, shower room. To lower level are three bedrooms & conservatory. Garage, extensive gated parking, tremendous grounds. EPC: D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £280,000

### DUDLEY, Wilmot Gardens

MAGNIFICENT GARDEN with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS - Just imagine sitting on the far patio watching the sun set! SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached in cul-de-sac comprising; hall, cloaks, lounge, dining room, kitchen with 'Old English white' finish units, store. Four bedrooms (principal bedroom with shower room en suite), bathroom. Garage, landscaped rear garden, block paved foregarden. EPC: E. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £240,000

### SEDGLEY, Gorge Road

Spacious, double glazed, majority gas centrally heated detached house offering FURTHER POTENTIAL within walking distance of Sedgley and comprising entrance vestibule, 20ft hall, lounge, sitting room, store, refitted breakfast kitchen. THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom. vendors believe (not verified) there is an attic room staircase removed when house was re-roofed, large garage, garden. EPC: F SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £210,000

### SEDGLEY, Alderdale Avenue, Northway

EXEMPLARY ORDER THROUGHOUT! Enlarged, gas centrally heated (recent boiler), double glazed semi detached in favoured district. Presented in stunning order throughout comprising; enlarged reception hall, good sized kitchen, transverse/L shape living/dining room with 'Minster'/gothic feature fireplace, CONSERVATORY. Three generous bedrooms (all with fitted units), bathroom. Garage, block paved drive, sheltered rear garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £194,950

### KINGSWINFORD, Water Street

A STUNNING, EXTENDED PERIOD FAMILY HOME within walking distance of desirable schools/ village shops, providing a DECEPTIVELY LARGE layout, all BEAUTIFULLY RE-APPOINTED with two reception rooms, stunning family dining kitchen, THREE GOOD BEDROOMS, luxury bathroom and a long sunny rear garden. EPC D

No upward chain £189,950

### KINGSWINFORD, Stream Park

A LARGE and SUBSTANTIAL TRADITIONAL SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME well placed within a very popular location, with a VERY LARGE REAR GARDEN, LONG DRIVEWAY and SECTIONAL GARAGE, offering a LARGE layout including a huge 22ft Lounge with dining area and THREE LARGE BEDROOMS. EPC E

No upward chain £179,950

### SEDGLEY, Northway

Well maintained semi-detached property located on the extremely popular NORTHWAY in Sedgley. Benefiting from central heating and double glazing, this THREE BEDROOM family home also consists of porch, entrance hall, two reception rooms, family bathroom, garage, enclosed rear garden, drive and garden to front and offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £179,950

### LOWER GORNAL, Wallows Wood

Tremendously modernised, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached that has been comprehensively modernised in recent years at head of cul-de-sac with porch, hall, and "open plan" accommodation incorporating lounge section (with bay), dining room section (with French doors out to garden), and a refitted kitchen section. Three bedrooms, bathroom. parking, "sun trap" side/rear garden. EPC:D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £175,000

### COSELEY, Mount Pleasant Street

Wonderfully presented semi-detached period property located in the Coseley area of Bilston. Retaining many original features as well as having double glazing and gas central heating, this family home also boasts imposing entrance hallway, two stunning well-appointed reception rooms, utility, fabulous kitchen-diner, guest W/C, THREE BEDROOMS, attractive JACK & JILL bathroom, enclosed rear garden with parking, VIEWING IS ESSENTIAL. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £164,950

### WALL HEATH/KINGSWINFORD, Barton Lane

A GENEROUS & EXTENDED THREE BEDROOM END TOWNHOUSE with upstairs bathroom, GARAGE and a PRIVATE REAR GARDEN, well placed within a sought after cul-de-sac, with walkway towards Tesco Kingswinford & Wall Heath School, offering a SPACIOUS layout including a ground floor wet room. EPC C

No upward chain £149,950

### SEDGLEY, Rowan Road

A stunningly presented semi-detached located at the head of a cul-de-sac in the extremely popular area of SEDGLEY. As well as having gas central heating and double glazing, this THREE BEDROOM also benefits from; entrance hall, living room, dining room, kitchen, utility room, guest W/C, attractive family bathroom, gardens to front and rear. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £134,950

### DUDLEY, Saredon Gardens

Meticulously maintained, recently constructed, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed "semi detached" starter home in established convenient district. In exemplary order throughout, the stunning accommodation includes; hall, cloakroom, breakfast kitchen with a fine range of cream finish units & integrated hob/oven, transverse lounge (with double French doors out to the garden), store, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom. Gated parking. EPC:TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £132,000

### DUDLEY, Cherry Green, Old Park Farm

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Situated at end of a cul-de-sac, this ENLARGED and IMPROVED semi-detached family home has so much to offer. As well as entrance hall, along with central heating and double glazing, this family home also benefits from living room, dining room, kitchen-diner, family bathroom, TWO BEDROOMS, enclosed CAR PORT and GARAGE, enclosed rear garden. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £124,950

### WORDSLEY, Marshall Crescent

An INCREDIBLY DECEPTIVE DUPLEX GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT combining wonderful period features with a sought after setting. All beautifully appointed to include to reception hall, large open plan Lounge through to breakfast kitchen, EXCELLENT DOUBLE BEDROOM spacious bathroom. Including PARKING. EPC C

£114,950

### COSELEY, Broad Lanes

An extremely well presented traditional, semi-detached property which benefits from gas central heating and double glazing. A well-proportioned starter home with parking to rear, also boasts; TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, THREE BEDROOMS, refitted kitchen, utility area, attractive bathroom, rear garden and offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £114,950

### LOWER GORNAL, Brook Street

●●●FULLY MODERNISED THROUGHOUT●●● This ideal first time buyers property is simply STUNNING! Benefiting from living room, fully re-fitted kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS, newly installed bathroom, new central heating, double glazing with enclosed rear garden and offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £109,950

### UPPER GORNAL, Kent Street

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Ideal buy-to-let investment? Spacious, uPVC double glazed, First Floor flat in established district convenient for so many amenities. Accommodation includes; reception hall, 17'9" living/dining room (possibilities of sub division?), kitchen, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom. Allocated garden (potential parking space), brick store. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £83,000

# Home has two garages and plenty of parking

HALESOWEN
£495,000

**In need of modernisation, this executive four-bedroomed detached home in Halesowen Road, Halesowen, comes with two good-sized garages and ample parking space.**

It is for sale through Taylors at £495,000 with no chain.

With majority double glazing and gas central heating, its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance porch, hall, dining room, living room, cloakroom with a WC, kitchen, first floor landing, four well-proportioned bedrooms, a bathroom with a separate toilet and a rear garden.

**For further information contact the selling agents, Taylors, on 01902 880888 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk**

# One-bed flat is ideal purchase for investor or first-time buyer

ROWLEY REGIS
£79,950 <<<

**With a garage, this one-bedroomed first floor maisonette-style apartment in Alwin Road, Rowley Regis, is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £79,950.**

With the lease in the process of being extended, this is an ideal investment property or first-time buy, said a spokesman for the selling agent.

With easy access to shops and public transport, its accommodation briefly comprises of an entrance hallway, lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower cubicle.

The property has double glazing and gas central heating and a communal garden.

**For further information, or to book that all important viewing, call the selling agents on 0121 5856667.**


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# Affordable Micra arriving in dealers

By Leon Poultney

**Nissan will complete the line-up of its all-new Micra range with the arrival of an entry-level 1,0-litre, 71hp three-cylinder petrol engine variant.**

The new model, which will be available in Visia, Visia+, Acenta, N-Connecta and Tekna trim levels, will start at £11,995 and rise to to £17,435 for the most expensive models.

According to Nissan, the lower powered petrol engine will account for around 15 per cent of all Micra sales in the UK and for 20 per cent of sales in Europe, with customers enticed by the low price tag and affordable running costs.

### Clean

Unfortunately, performance prowess isn't the little Micra's strongest point, with this engine taking 16.4 seconds to get to 62mph and managing just 98mph in terms of top speed.

However, it remains relatively clean, emitting 103g/km of CO2 and returning a respectable 61.4mpg on the combined cycle.

But the majority of customers in the UK are expected to part with an extra £970 for the 90hp 0.9-litre turbocharged petrol engine.

This model boasts 150Nm of torque, meaning its performance figures are more impressive, hitting 0-62 in 12 seconds, while it is also more economical – managing 64.2mpg claimed and emitting 99g/km of CO2.

In addition to the petrol engines, there is a 1.5-litre, 90hp four-cylinder diesel model, which went on sale earlier this year.

Nissan offers a Bose personal audio system with speakers fitted in the headrests

The car has semi-autonomous safety functionality including Intelligent Lane Intervention

New Micra has already impressed with its bold styling and athletic exterior, which is now longer, wider and lower than ever before, while two-tone soft touch materials have been used extensively inside to ensure the cabin feels like a more premium offering.

In addition to this, Nissan offers a Bose personal audio system, which features speakers built in to the headrests, as well as advanced semi-autonomous safety functionality that have not previously been seen in this segment.

This includes Intelligent Lane Intervention, which gently corrects the Micra back on to the right path should it be required.

New Micra has impressed with its bold styling and athletic interior


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| 1363 | **VW GOLF TECH GT 2.0TDI** CONVERTIBLE WHITE 37,000 MILES | £12,695 | £12,495 |
| 1515 | **BMW 330D XDRIVE M SPORT AUTO** BLACK 31,600 MILES | £21,495 | £20,995 |
| 1363 | **VW BEETLE SPORT 2.0TDI** 3DR METALLIC BLUE 20,500 MILES SUNROOF | | £11,995 |
| 1262 | **ANTARA SE 2.2CDTI 4X4 CARBON FLASH** 25,300 MILES | £9,295 | £8,995 |
| 1414 | **AMPERA POSITIV 1.4 AUTO** 5DR METALLIC GREY 10,200 MILES "ELECTRIC" | £15,295 | £14,995 |
| 1414 | **NISSAN NOTE ACENTA PREMIUM 1.5DCI** METALLIC BLUE 22,400 MILES | £7,295 | £6,995 |
| 1262 | **HYUNDAI IX35 2.0CRDI PREMIUM** METALLIC BLUE 32,100 MILES | £12,695 | £11,695 |
| 1363 | **ASTRA TECHLINE 2.0CDTI** 5DR DEEP SKY BLUE 31,300 MILES SAT NAV | £8,995 | £7,895 |

| | | WAS | NOW |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1363 | **ADAM SLAM 1.4** 3DR RED N ROLL BLACK ROOF 27,200 MILES | £7,695 | £6,995 |
| 1515 | **ADAM ROCKS "AIR" 1.4 LET IT** BLUE 13,700 MILES "OPEN TOP MOTORING" | £10,495 | £8,995 |
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The Fullback is a rather imposing machine

# Fiat's take on a rough and ready practical pick-up truck

By James Parker

**The Fiat Fullback is based on the popular Mitsubishi L200, and is largely similar in appearance aside from a redesigned front grille.**

Customers in the UK who fancy the idea of a pick-up truck with a slightly more stylish badge than its competitors will only be able to specify their Fullback with a double cab configuration, although there is a selection of 2.4-litre diesel engines and transmissions available.

With the Fullback, which draws its name from the key rugby and American football position, Fiat hopes it can muscle its way into the increasingly competitive medium-duty pick-up market, competing against the likes of the Ford Ranger, SsangYong Musso and its sister vehicle, the Mitsubishi L200.

There's no getting around it: the Fullback is a rather imposing thing. Measuring more than five metres in length, it practically dwarfs anything else on the road short of a lorry. That said though, it wears its size rather well. Those with a keen eye will spot the Fullback's familiar L200 profile, as well as its less fussy and more subtly styled front end. Side by side, the Fiat is without a doubt, the better looking of the two.

The Fullback turns heads wherever it goes

As far as image goes, there is a certain amount of coolness to be derived from cruising around in a truck that at times can feel as big as an aircraft carrier.

The Fullback turns heads wherever it goes, largely thanks to just how big it is.

While the Fullback might look rather flashy from the outside, the cabin bears a distinctly utilitarian feel to it. The layout is simple, yet feels solidly put together. As this is a pick-up that will largely appeal to those who spend a great deal of time outdoors, a simple and sturdy interior such as the Fullback's is exactly what is needed.

Being a large pick-up, the Fullback offers passengers a good deal of space inside. Headroom in the front and back seats is abundant, while legroom in the rear, while not amazing, is still plentiful enough to ensure passengers won't get too uncomfortable on longer journeys. There is also a generously sized central storage bin, as well as a couple of cup holders for storing those odd bits and pieces.

The Fullback's load bed is undoubtedly its main party piece, and one of the primary attractions for a vehicle of this nature. It offers a load volume of 1.9 cubic metres and a payload of 1,045kg. Towing shouldn't prove too much of a problem either, as the Fullback is rated to haul up to 3,100kg unbraked.

First things first: you're immediately aware of the Fullback's size the moment you get behind the wheel. You sit high up, with a commanding view of the road around you and a dominating presence. Generally, the Fullback rides well, although it can skip around a touch over slightly uneven road surfaces.

In terms of its controls, the steering is surprisingly light given the nature of the vehicle. Our test model was fitted with a six-speed manual, which for the most part was competent enough. The clutch was light, and the gear change itself didn't require a huge amount of physical exertion, although it was rather woolly.

On the motorway, the truck's boxy nature did give way to a fair bit of wind noise, but this wasn't a huge mark against the Fullback. The 2.4-litre, 178bhp diesel engine pulled well, getting the pick-up up to speed in a fashionable manner. At cruising speed, while it was fairly audible, it wasn't at all intrusive.

We reviewed the mid-level, LX-specification Fullback with the 2.4-litre, 178bhp Euro 5 diesel engine, which costs from £28,653. For your money, you get a fair amount of kit as standard, including heated front seats – which are a welcome feature in the chilly winter temperatures – a 6.1-inch touchscreen infotainment system that incorporates DAB radio and satellite navigation, as well as a very handy rear parking camera that certainly comes in handy in a car of this size.

# Suzuki Swift looks set to put a smile on quite a few faces

There are stronger haunches and semi-concealed rear door handles

By John Griffiths

**Suzuki's latest Swift range – launched this spring to critical acclaim – was joined by two new models, even before it hit the showrooms.**

Bigger, better looking, more powerful yet more economical, the Swift is the hot new contender in the supermini class, one of the most fiercely competitive areas of the car market.

The two newcomers are the 1.0 litre with automatic transmission, and a 1.2 litre petrol-electric hybrid with an 'on demand' four wheel drive system. The 1.2 litre unit, minus the electric assistance, already features on the base model in the range.

A 998cc automatic, I hear you scoff. But we've moved on a long way. Or Suzuki has with its turbocharged Swift with responsive six-speed transmission.

Naturally we all want to cut our fuel bills, but another factor is the continued demonisation of diesel. So a petrol engine which can compete on fuel efficiency, and for that lazy, torquey cruising ability of a typical oil-burner, is a good way forward for many motorists. And then a responsive, smooth auto is an ideal companion.

The new Swift range, starts from £10,999 rising to £14,499 depending on trim and engine choice. The auto option on 1.0 litre Boosterjet (turbo) engines adds £1,350 while the lightweight all-wheel drive system adds £1,000. The latter is only available with the 1.2 mild hybrid power train.

Often, you get the feeling that car makers, when

The new Swift should bring some 'conquest' sales

launching new cars to the media, choose routes which emphasise the model's best features. Suzuki, on the other hand, set us loose on the steep and tortuous roads of the Peak District National Park – probably the toughest test route you could find for a little automatic and an indication of the company's confidence.

The engine has 110bhp and 160Nm of torque (170 with the manual gearbox) which endows it with lively performance. The 0 to 62mph sprint takes ten seconds – actually slightly quicker than the manual but it isn't all about sprinting. What really counts is the perfectly matched ratios and the rapid changes mean it's a real smoothie, performing as quietly as a more traditional 1.6 or 1.8 litre car. A couple of uphill overtaking manouvres were completed with surprising alacrity.

It feels relaxed even in testing conditions and that, of course, means the driver and passengers feel more relaxed, too.

The official fuel average is 56.5mpg so I was more than impressed with my 48mpg average for the trip. That compared to 45mpg for the manual but electrically assisted SHVS version over a similar, but arguably rather more testing route where actually getting into top gear was a rare experience. The hybrid's official fuel average is 65.7mpg, while the 1.0 Boostjet manual's laboratory test rating is 61.4mpg.

From the outside, stronger haunches and semi-concealed rear door handles give it a sharper, sportier outline. It's also got considerably improved dynamics.

All include air conditioning, six airbags, privacy glass and Bluetooth. Higher grade models add features such as a colour display screen with smartphone link, alloy wheels, rear view camera and fog lamps, which the top of the range model gets automatic air con, electric windows at the rear as well as the front and adpative cruise control and 'dual sensor' brake support.

Last year, Suzuki set a record for sales in this country. Now, the company has reason to be confidence of another high this year. Each car company has its own answer, or a combination of answers, to rising motoring costs and the diesel controversy, Suzuki's is light weight and some of the most modern and efficient petrol engines whereby smaller capacity doesn't meant a loss of refinement or driving pleasure.

The new Swift, already a mainstay of Suzuki's sales book, looks set to put a smile on quite a few faces and bring some 'conquest' sales from its rivals.


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**Tel: 07831 192 116**

**ASHWOOD CAR BOOT** Sundays from 6am. By Roberts Farm Shop on A449, DY6 0AA. 07710 644908. www.ashwoodcarboot.co.uk

**COL'S CAR BOOT & MARKET**
**OPEN EVERY WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY**
Open Bank Holiday Monday at Himley Bypass, B4176
Ring Colin: 07973 904585
www.colscarboot.co.uk
@colscarboot
OPEN ALL YEAR

## caravans / motorhomes

**A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW** 35x12 caravans from £10,000.Gym Par 3 golf, bowls, why go further? www.bcpark.co.uk 01584823433

**ABBEY VOGUE GTS 215** two berth.
Excellent condition.
One onwer,
Must be seen.
**£4,500 ono.**
**Telephone 01384 236477.**

**We Want Your Motorhome**
Finance Cleared
Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid
Please Call
AEG on 01384 848439 or
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

**LOOK**

**CITROEN RELAY**
2004, two berth camper, hot and cold water, shower, cassette toilet, fully equipped, nice condition inside and out, new MoT.
**£6,500.**
**07496 172252.**

**HIGHLEY PARK HOME**
12 month residential site. Park home lodge between Bewdley and Bridgnorth.
Fabulous views own garden and drive way
**£89,950**
**07774 715830.**

**PRE-OWNED CARAVAN** with decking. Inc all 2017 site fees, full 12 month season. Payment options available (T&Cs). £10,995. Call Paul on 07960 944721 for details.

**SITED NEAR BEWDLEY**
Static mobile home. On site clubhouse, swimming pools, superb views.
**£20,000.**
**07717 090817.**

**SWIFT STATIC MOBILE** Home, 2 beds, 6 berth, CH, DG, galv chassis, Newquay, Wales, small quiet site, sea views, decking, 2017/18 fees paid. Mint condition.
**£13,995 ono**
**07773474029**

## caravans wanted

**WANTED ALL CARAVANS**
Any age or condition
Also motorhomes wanted.
TOP PRICES PAID
Immediate collection.
CALL THOMAS
07717 280 996
www.tscaravansandmotorhomes.co.uk

**LET US SELL YOUR CARAVAN/** Motorhome for you and get the best possible price. Severn Valley Leisure, DY8 4HP. 01384 390183

**WANTED MOTORHOME/CARAVAN** Any make, model, year or condition.
Cash paid
Private buyer.
**Please call with details**
**07376 393703.**

## music shop

**RECORDS/CDS/MEMORABILIA** wanted & sold 50s -90s+ record shop wolves wv1 3hl 07760168972

## sports & leisure

**FreeAds**
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
**bookanad.**
**expressandstar.co.uk**

# holidays

## caravan sales

**A CHOICE OF CARAVANS FOR** sale from £1995 to £6995, accessory shop, service, repairs,storage. Severn Valley Leisure Stourbridge, DY8 4HP 01384 390183 www.severnvalleyleisure.com

## self catering holidays

**BURNHAM-ON-SEA**
Self Catering Holiday Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly
01278 794111
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

## travel abroad

**READERS ARE REMINDED** to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

# mind, body & soul

## massage

**CHINESE MASSAGE** traditional, 'Hot Stones'. 01902 903659, 07741 696099. Compton WV6 8AF

# what's on

## antique fairs

**ANTIQUE & COLLECTORS FAIR** Every month. Codsall Village Hall, Sunday 30th July 9am-3pm. Call Brian: 07923 538178.

## markets

**STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT**
At Stourbridge Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday from 24th May
07957 399964

# 3 Home & Services

## in your garden

**A LANDSCAPING & GARDEN SERVICE**
Regular Garden and Grounds Maintenance. Fencing. Jungles cleared & restored. Garden tidy-ups. New lawns laid.
FREE ESTIMATES
01902 683607 or 07939 634708

## items for sale

**ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED**
That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

## furniture

**AS NEW** unused TV cabinet, 2 glass doors, £80 o.n.o. 0121 520 7749

## items wanted

**Yesterdays Furniture**
Best prices given for single items or houses cleared.
Scrap Gold Jewellery.
**Call: 01384 482155 or 07802 475693**

**A BEST CASH PRICE**

**FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS**
Any gauge or age
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/ Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/ any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
**01384 836219/07891 713547**
**thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com**

**A BEST CASH PRICE PAID FOR DIE CAST CARS / LORRIES / TOY SOLDIERS**
Air fix, Britains, Corgi, Dinky, Spot on, Tri-ang.
Best prices paid.
Any condition.
Collections bought.
**Telephone 01922 327897 or 07976 691563.**

**WANTED**
ALL MILLITARIA ITEMS FROM WARS WANTED BY COLLECTOR
Swords, medals, helmets etc, single or full items.
German, Japenese, British.
Will collect.
Cash paid
**07511 500337.**

**Frank Bosworth Furniture**
**IN LIQUIDATION EVERYTHING MUST GO**
*All Fashion Beds - Sleigh Beds, Metal, Iron and Ottoman Beds*
PLUS UPTO 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT (SUBJECT TO STATUS)
Over 1000 Mattresses in stock whether its Budgets, Orthopaedic, Memory Foam or Pocket Sprung. We are your One Stop Bed Shop - We manufacture every conceivable mattress at the lowest factory direct prices - Cheap Junior Matts from £29.00 - Medium quality matts from £39.00 - Ortho and Memory Foam from £59.00 - Complete Divan Beds from £79.00 - Fashion & Bunk Beds in designer metal and wood. Ottoman Storage and Drawer Divans - You name it we have got it at the right price made to measure sizes and special requests a speciality. Factory Shop open 7 days major credit cards welcome

LEATHER & FABRIC RECLINER CHAIRS UPTO 70% OFF DISPLAY MODELS EG GIVNOR RECLINERIN WINE WAS £999 NOW £299
SAVE UPTO 50% OFF ON-LINE PRICES
*100'S OF LEATHER & FABRIC SOFAS, CORNER SUITES AND RECLINER SUITES - MANY HALF PRICE*
Open Everyday 10am-6pm OPEN SUNDAY 10AM - 4PM
**BFC FACTORY OUTLET**
CONEYGRE ROAD IND EST, GREAT BRIDGE RD, TIPTON DY4 8XF.
OFF A461 2 MINS FROM NEW TESCO & TOBY CARVERY
0121 557 6885
INTEREST FREE CREDIT (T/C'S APPLY)

**AUTO MEMORABILIA WANTED**
SHELL, ESSO, CASTROL ETC
ALSO
GARAGE CLEARANCES
Old Enamel Signs,
Petrol Cans,
Old Jugs,
Classic Car Parts,
Bikes and Motorbikes.
Anything old.
** TOP PRICES PAID **
01384 836219/07891 713547

**READERS ARE ADVISED** to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

**RECORDS WANTED** 50's, 60's, 70's, Rock, Punk, Rock / Roll, Jazz / 90's Indie. Collections bought. Music Memorabilia, Promo Posters, autographs, etc, etc. Top prices paid.
**Telephone 07966 252439.**

**SPECTRUM GAMES** Wanted, plus any old Crash magazines wanted, also any old your sinclair magazines. 01902 892918.

## kitchens & bathrooms

**NEFF BUILT IN ELECTRIC** Oven, stainless steel, 3 years old, very clean, genuine reason, must collect, £90 ono. 07530 362965.

## loans

**READERS ARE REMINDED** that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

# specialists at your service

## aerials

**THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!**

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"
*Steve - AA Digital Aerials*

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

**AA DIGITAL AERIALS**
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

**ALAN JONES**
THE ORIGINAL AERIAL SPECIALIST, THE BEST!
Est 1955 - 59 years at the top!
Recommended by thousands
Genuine, honest, 100% reliable
WE HAVE WATCHED THEM ALL COME AND GO
Call: 01902 885985
ANY PROBLEM SOLVED

**CLEAR VISION AERIALS** Freeview, FreeSat, Sky, CCTV, Aerials from £79. Dishes from £79. OAP DISCOUNT. Tel: 01902 752036.

## alarms/security

**PREMIER ALARMS**
Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

## appliance repairs

**A SAME DAY REPAIR** - Cookers Autos Fridges Vacs and Micros. Call 07900 578897 / 07801 746853.

## building services

**DAVIES & SON BUILDERS**
*Over 35 years exp*
All aspects of building work
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

**Brickwork Maintenance**
Boundary Walls, Steps, Part Rebuilds, Brick Replacement, Repointing, Cleaning etc. CRB, C&G, Insured, Free Quotes.
**Lee**
0789 147 5718 or 0121 602 5313
lee@blackcountrybrick.co.uk

## domestic cleaning

**CLEAN FOR YOU (midlands ltd)**
Domestic Cleaning & Ironing Service.
Friendly, Reliable & Trustworthy.
Call Anita on: 07854 163 804.

## drain clearance

**ALL DRAIN AND SEWER** Blockages cleared fast. Call Fast Clean: 01902 736424.

## driveways & patios

**CRETE BY DESIGN**
Concrete Imprinting
• BLOCK PAVING • TARMACING
FREE QUOTES
01902 489633 (day)
or 01902 604187 (eve)

## electrical services

**A BARGAIN PRICED** house re-wire, fuseboards etc. Grahams Electrical. 01902 842739, 07783 471949.

**ALL ELECTRICAL** work from a switch to a rewire. Insured, free quote 01902 575570 / 07958 627434.

**ALL HOME ELECTRICS** NAPIT registered. Fully insured. For a free quote call 07583 320318.

## gardening services

**1ST TREE AND TURF**
*All aspects of Landscaping,Tree Surgery, Block Paving, Fencing and Turfing.*
Call Gary on: 01902 443069 or 07742 430513

**GARDENS TIDIED** from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

## fencing

**PORTWAY FENCING**
SPECIAL OFFER
*10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards* £695
*Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.*
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

**ACE FENCING.** A better quality panel. Supply/fit. Free quote: 31 Bank St. WV10 9DU.01902 723910

**THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!**

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."
*Michael- Portway Fencing*

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

## gas fitting

**GAS SERVICES**
• Boilers • Cookers
• Fires • Gas Checks
• Landlord Certificates
• Gas Leaks Traced
Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
*DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs*
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

**A BOILER BREAKDOWN, COOKER, FIRE,**
FITTED-SERVICED-REPAIRED
Landlord certs.
All areas covered.
J&E Heating.
Call John:
01902 562664 /07969 687832

**READERS ARE ADVISED**
**To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.**
It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

## guttering

**PROPERTY SOLUTIONS**
A*1 GUTTERING
cleaned, repaired, replaced, facias/ soffits, UPVC washdowns, all roofing/ repointing work. Free quotes, 8am-8pm
01902 722447

## handyman services

**YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN**
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed, Most trades covered, References available on request. No job too big or too small!
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

**LOCK & CARPENTRY** Plumbing, Small job specialist. Free quotes 01902 683100 or 07934 460864.

## THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!

I average around 1 to 2 phone calls a day from customers as a direct result of my Classified Advertising. I am very happy with my response levels.

*Mr Causer.*

For great business results call 01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

## THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!

"We are really happy with our Classified advertising package and the business it brings us."

*Martin - Centra Heat*

For great business results call 01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

## house clearances

**A ABSOLUTE BEST** cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327**

## oven cleaning

**LOW COST DRIVEWAYS AND POWER WASHING**
**NO CASH UPFRONT!**
*Old driveways restored or built from scratch*
Driveways powerwashed, Block paving re sanded & sealed, exterior walls and all hard surface areas.
**01902 824661or 07513 678259**

**AAA OVEN CLEANING**, Ovens, Hobs, Aga / Range / Micro / Extractors. 01902 689418 / 07910 921736

## painters / decorators

**CALL M & B DECORATORS**
City & Guilds
No job too small
Free Quote
01902 494555

**LOVE 2 WALLPAPER**
Reliable & Friendly, Professional
Female Painters & Decorators
Attention to detail, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 484194
www.love-2-wallpaper.co.uk

**C I PAINTING & DECORATING** Over 30 yrs experience,City & Guilds approved. Free Quotes. 07913 732756 or 01902 650716.

## pest control

**WASP NESTS DESTROYED** £50. Bed bugs, all insect pests. Telephone John on 01902 743458.

## plans prepared

**ADAM DESIGN**, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

**BUILDING** Plans: Prepared/submitted. K J Bradley 01902 373248 07792 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk

## plastering

**M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING Services.** Home/Garden Improvements.Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

**STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE** Clean and Reliable, All Work Undertaken, All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

## plumbers

**G M PLUMBING SERVICES** Complete Bathrooms, Kitchens, Taps Showers,Blockages 07976 012468

## plumbing & heating

**CENTRA HEAT**
Boiler Servicing inc Free Landlords Certificate.
Power Flushing, Boiler/ System Repairs
£200 OFF/Trade in old boiler
Installed in August *T&C apply*
01902 845211

## removals

**Keiron Jones Plumbing & Heating**
*Full heating systems £2200*
*Boiler Changes £1100*
Longer warranty available upon request, fires and surrounds also available.
For Free Quotes Call:
01902 403823 07811 855231

**A CHEAPER REMOVAL**
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL REMOVALS.
FULLY INSURED. 7 days.
01902 89 49 16
07807 77 30 35
FREE QUOTES
Student/OAP Discounts

**KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES**
We move anything.
Professional service,
45 years' experience,
DFS approved and we take the stress away.
Please call:
07966 281957

**KT HOUSE REMOVALS**
*12 years experience.*
*SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.*
*LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.*
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

**A2B REMOVALS** Cheap and reliable removal service. Insured. 07817 842980 or 01902 744829.

**CALL DEAN NOW:** For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

**25% OFF SF ROOFING & GUTTERING**
25 YEARS EXPERIENCE!
Flat, Main roofs, rubber or felt, repaired and replaced, all repointing. Guttering repaired and replaced.
BEAT ALL QUOTES GUARANTEED
Call Sean 01902 829158 8am to 8pm

**A BACKED BARGAIN** slate, tile, flat, lead work, fascias and guttering work, Free Quotes Call: 01902 561434 or 07792 817062.

**MG ROOFING** Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

## rubbish removal

**LETS TALK RUBBISH** No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

## skip hire

**MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE**
Save £££s
All size skips and all areas covered
Same day delivery faster than a phone call!!!
Open 7 days a week
SCRAP CARS REMOVED FOR FREE
07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56

**AT M&M SKIPS**
Fast, friendly service
All areas covered
All sizes
Same day service
Freephone
0800 619 0189
07904 915016

**BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH!** No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

**CASTLE SKIP HIRE**
Mini, Midi and Large Skips.
GRAB HIRE
01384 237577
01902 405745
07719 671845

**STONES SKIP HIRE** 0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875 www.stonesskiphire.co.uk

## upholstery

**BILSTON UPHOLSTERY** A Suite/ chair re-upholstered/ repaired as new. Free Quotes: 01902 404698.

## THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!

"I am very happy with my Express & Star and Chronicles Advertising Campaign, also by using the local directory on expressandstar.com we are seeing benefits from visitors to our website."

*Gary Downes - Bilston Upholstery*

For great business results call 01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

**UPHOLSTERY SERVICES** 3pcs/ springs/caravans/pubs/club/antiques. 01902 689844 / 07817 842980.

# 4 Pets & Animals

## equestrian corner

**ALL READERS** are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

## guns & dogs

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

## pets corner

**NOTICE TO READERS**
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

**GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS**
All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
Call 01902 291080 or visit
www.gtwolverhampton.co.uk
Greyhound Trust Wolverhampton
@gtwolverhampton

**MULTICROSS PUPPIES** 2 girls, 2 boys, various colours, £75. 07722 663466.

**SPRINGER SPANIEL** puppies, ready now, 2 dogs, 1 bitch, £300. 07507 753350

# 5 Business & Farming

## business opportunities

**READERS** are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

## business services

**DOG SITTER** Dog sitter. Must be friendly with children & pets. Please supply food & bedding. £22 per night per dog. 07808820687

## business directory

## accountants

**ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES** for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

## commercial premises

**UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE** to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

## plant, machinery & tools

**R AND J SITE SERVICES LTD**
Grab Hire, Plant Hire Groundwork and all types of aggregates. Anywhere in the Midlands.
Call 01384 211420 / 07793 079103
randjsiteservices@hotmail.com

# 6 Property

## overseas property

**NOTICE TO READERS**
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

## properties wanted

**WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!**
**FAST 4 Your House CASH**
BLACK COUNTRY HOMES
You agree the price, we buy the house...
• NO AGENTS FEES • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
• FREE SOLICITORS • ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION
0800 999 999 6
01384 500 500
30 yrs
www.black-country homes.co.uk * subject to terms

**FAST CASH FOR YOUR PROPERTY**
• Repossessions stopped
• Houses bought in any condition
• Legal fees paid
• Probate Estates Welcome
• Mortgages / Loans Cleared
CASH PAID WITHIN DAYS!
FREEPHONE 0800 121 6007
OAKWOOD HOMEBUYERS
Friendly, local company here to help you 7 days a week. Est. 10 years.
www.oakwood-homebuyers.com

**Home Cash Buyer**
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
**Houses / Land Required**
Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

## THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising! Our directory page on expressandstar.com has generated extra activity on our website."

*Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer*

For great business results call 01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

**WE BUY HOUSES**
*YOUR PRICE, flexible terms*
Call/Text Mary on
07767 135 043
01384 686 050

## accommodation to let

**NOTICE TO READERS**
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

**NOTICE TO READERS**
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**APARTMENTS BRAND NEW** Large 2 bed. Bargain £495pcm Oldbury / Dudley 01384 230222

**FLAT TO LET WEDNESFIELD**
Fully furnished, refurbished to high standard, with off road parking, would suit working gent, age 45+.
£85pw.
01902 304258.

**A 1 BED FURNISHED FLAT** Tettenhall area.CH. No DSS 07976 263435 / 01902 700 028.

**SMALL FLAT** fully equipped, refurbished, suit mature male. £95pw + some services. 07715 603357.

**SMART SINGLE ROOMS** in Shared house, Netherton. £85 p.w. inc. bills. No DSS. 2 weeks deposit. 07940 116130.

**THREE BEDROOM** Finchfield, CH, garage space, modernised. Two toilets, £600 pcm. 01902 335683.

# 7 Jobs

## drivers

**CLASS 1 DRIVER** Class 1 driver with steel experience, required to join a family owned structural steel business based in Dudley. Must hold a valid digital tacho card and CPC drivers card. Permanent, full time position. Please call Gary or Andy on 01384 258400 to apply.

## engineering

**CNC OPERATOR** Person required to operate Peddinghaus/ Kaltenbach fabrication machinery, saw/drill line and plate process machinery. Previous experience is an advantage. Please contact Andy or Gary on 01384 258400 or email a CV to andy@ssteelwork.net

## mobile homes

**MOBILE HOME FOR SALE RESIDENTIAL RETIREMENT SITE**
Knowlesands, Bridgnorth.
Atlas 39ft, 2 bedroom.
1 en suite.
Beautiful views across River Severn Valley and Severn Valley Railway runs at rear of sight.
For inquires call
07976 090870.

## employment wanted

**RETIRED TIME SERVED CARPENTER / JOINER**
Requires casual / part time work.
Own van / tools.
Telephone 01384 375672 or 07527 360303.

## manufacturing

**STEEL FABRICATOR** Person required to fabricate structural steelwork from drawings, must have experience. Full time day and night shift positions available with good rates of pay and conditions. Please contact Gary on 01384 258400.

## motor trade

**SERVICE TECHNICIAN** required. Experience with auto electrics and prestigious marques preferable. Send CV to neal@thesupercarrooms.co.uk

## full time - general

**BARBER** required. Established Clientele. Self Employed basis. Bradmore area. Tel Mick on 07805 844493 for more information.

**SENIOR DRAUGHTSMAN (Male/Female)**
Must have 5 years minimum experience in structural steelwork and architectural metalwork in the construction industry, be computer literate and be an experienced user of AutoCad.
Competitive salary and company car provided.
Dudley based company
Please email covering letter and CV to:
warren.holland@merciagroup.com

**MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY JOBSDAY**
Every Thursday our special jobs section is packed with the week's latest vacancies.
Make sure you get your copy - it might be just what you've been waiting for.
jobs.expressandstar.com REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

## courses

BIRMINGHAM: 25-26 SEPT & 30 NOV.-1 DEC.
STOKE: 2-3 SEPT. TELFORD: 23-24 OCT.
WOLVERHAMPTON: 16-17 SEPT.
**Learn how to take blood**
TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST
NATIONALLY RECOGNISED AND ACCREDITED
**Introduction to Phlebotomy**
TWO DAY COURSE - National UK Qualification
NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
ocn Credit4Learning
For more info or to book: www.geopace.com
HIGH DEMAND IN: Hospitals - GP Surgeries - Clinics - Private Sector - Community - MOD

**IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY**
*Advertise any item FREE up to the value of £250
go to: www.expressandstar.com/bookanad

*T&C's apply
FreeAds

IMPERIALCARS

Love Cars?

Come play with ours

Due to the continued expansion of the Nation's favourite and fastest growing Used Car Dealer Group; Imperial Cars will be holding a recruitment day for Workshop Technicians, Aftersales Manager, Service Advisors and Sales Executives on Wednesday 9th August 2017 at the Copthorne Hotel, Merry Hill, Dudley DY5 1UR.

If you want to move forward with your career and join a rapidly expanding company that can offer you world class training, industry leading remuneration packages, and genuine opportunities for career progression, why not come and visit us at our Recruitment Event where you can meet our team.

If this appeals to you then apply now to arrange an interview at our Recruitment Event on the 9th August. Visit our website **imperialcars.co.uk** and click on the banner at the top of the home page.

Halesowen

Technicians | Aftersales | Service | Sales

# 8 Motoring

## cars over £1500

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# 9 Local Information

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# 10 Personals

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# Himley to shine a light on proceedings

HIMLEY are to further enhance their reputation as one of the leading lights on the club cricket scene. The Stourbridge Road club are set to break new ground by hosting a Birmingham League clash under floodlights.

The club's second XI will entertain Halesowen in a Premier Division Two game on Saturday, August 26, starting at 3pm.

First team skipper Greg Wright, one of the leading lights behind the club's Black Country T20 spectacular, said: "As a club we are proud to be staging the game and pleased to be pushing the boundaries for club cricket.

"We put the idea to the Birmingham League and they were prepared to go with it. It will be interesting to see the contrast between batting first and then batting under lights in the longer format of the game."

The Black Country T20 competition,will see Himley, Brewood, Wolverhampton, Stourbridge and Halesowen and a Staffs Clubs select XI do battle from August 21-26. More floodlit action follows on August 27 when four sides compete in finals day of the NatWest Under-19s Staffs Club T20.

# Players in swing for golf day fundraiser

MORE than 80 golfers took to the fairways to a building society raised more than £5,500 for a local health and wellbeing charity.

The West Brom staged its annual sporting fundraiser at The Staffordshire Golf Club, near Wombourne, in aid of its nominated charity, the Kaleidoscope Plus Group.

Business partners, suppliers and staff joined forces to form 20 teams who did battle in a stableford competition, won by insurance broker AJ Gallagher. There were nearest the pin and longest drive challenges, while a raffle was also held to raise additional funds.

The West Brom's David Taylor, who helped to organise the event, said: "Our golf day is always very popular and the number of entrants is growing every year. All the players enjoyed themselves and to raise £5,500 for the Kaleidoscope Plus Group was a great effort from everyone who took part."

Monica Shafaq, Kaleidoscope's chief executive, said: "The golf day represents a terrific start to our partnership with the West Brom."

# Shelley shows class to increase his lead

ANOTHER four race wins ensured Burntwood race ace Lloyd Shelley walked away from Darley Moor with a second clean sweep.

Shelley – who has now won a staggering eight straight races at the last two meetings – increased his lead in two classes at the Derbyshire circuit.

The meeting included some fantastic battles out on track throughout the 23 race programme, none more so than the duels between Shelley in the two Formula 600 and Sound of Thunder class races against Nottingham's Tom Fisher. The results leave Shelley on 54 points in both classes, 12 points ahead of Steven Procter in the Formula 600 and 24 in front of Jamie Medhurst in the Sound of Thunder.

Anthony Eades and his Wolverhampton passenger Keith Box took the Open Sidecar honours on each occasion, recording two overall fifth places. The results sees the pair maintain their class lead on 54 points, with Brian Wilson and Mike Fairhurst second (32) and Ray Thomas and Neil Aslaksen (21) third. Dudley's Mark Cockerton is second in the Classic 350 class.

Peter is a now passing on his experience of the game

Peter with a team-mate from the veteran's XV

# Black Country man has Spain hooked on rugby

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Jamie Brassington

**IN the shadow of legendary football club Real Madrid, one Black Country man is helping to popularise a different sport in Spain's capital.**

Football reigns as the national sport in Spain but rugby is gaining a foothold thanks to the help of Wolverhampton-born Peter Boland, who has called the country home for half his life.

The 53-year-old's influence on the game of rugby in his adopted home has seen him become recognised as one of the top 50 most influential people in the sport in the country.

Boland, who was born in Wolverhampton and went to school in Wednesfield, is head coach of a junior side at Alcobendas Rugby, based in Madrid, and has turned them into Spanish champions.

### Recognised

His knowledge of the game, which he picked up in the Black Country, is regarded so highly in Spain he has been asked to advise the Spanish Rugby Union about how to grow the sport nationally.

Remarkably, Boland was playing in Spain's top rugby division up until he was 48. He has been recognised by Spanish rugby magazine 'From 22' who paid tribute to him and ranked him as the 46th most influential rugby person in the country.

Boland, who lives with his Spanish wife and three children, called it 'flattering' to have been featured in the publication.

He said: "I only got involved in Spanish rugby around 11 years ago. For the magazine to place me in the top 50 contributors to the sport, because of my playing and coaching and contribution, it has given me huge satisfaction and is very flattering."

Boland got into rugby during his time at Ward's Bridge Secondary School, Wednesfield, thanks to the influence of his teachers. He played for his school team before turning out to represent Staffordshire, and during his time at Leeds University – where he studied a degree in modern languages in French and Spanish – he played for Walsall. His university course saw him spend time in Spain and France. After graduating he went into the marketing industry, where he lived between London and Madrid.

Through work, he moved to Spain in 1995 where he met his wife and built his life. Boland lives around 30 miles outside Madrid, but the club that he coaches at, Alcobendas, and his work, are based in the capital.

His working life put a hold on his playing career in 1995 and he didn't start turning out again until 2006.

"But at the ripe old age of 42 I turned up to Alcobendas saying I wanted to play again," said Boland. "They said they had a veterans team, but I said I wanted to play again. I played in the top Spanish divisions until I was 48."

After retiring from the first team, Boland turned to coaching a youth team at the club. His side, who were at under-12 level at the time, went on to beat London Irish during a friendly match.

But Boland, whose 13-year-old son plays junior rugby for the club, has not completely hung up his boots.He still plays at veterans level and represents the Spanish veterans side.

He is also providing a helping hand to the ruling body.

"For the last eight months, I have been advising Spanish rugby to build a strategic plan to build up rugby in Spain," he said.

Peter Boland and his successful Alcobendas youth team in his adopted home of Spain

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# Sport

Black Country man converting Spain into an oval ball nation

Page 47

## Greenwood injury mars Cradley night

CRADLEY finished with a flourish to see off Stoke 54-35 on Monday, but ended the night with concerns over the fitness of Dan Greenwood.

Number three Greenwood fell in heat 12 at Monmore with the red lights already on for a previous incident, hurting his left shoulder which contains a metal plate from a past injury.

It marred a stellar show from the Motor Market Heathens, who were pushed all the way until a trio of 5-1s saw them gallop away. Danny Ayres bagged a five-ride full maximum with skipper Tom Perry remaining unbeaten by an opponent.

Ayres was within a second of the National League track record in a consummate victory before Conor Dwyer led a second 3-3. Greenwood slipped out of contention on turn two of heat three having ran very wide while Tony Atkin edged Stoke ahead. Perry led another 3-3, matched by Mitchell Davey in heat five.

Paul Burnett was excluded for running Luke Harris into the fence in heat six. With Ayres in front in the re-run, Heathens were on a 5-1 until Harris hit the fence on turn four.

The hosts moved in front when Perry roared away and Dwyer passed David Wallinger for a 4-2. A maximum pushed Cradley five ahead with Greenwood leading home Lawlor. Ayres' third win extended the gap. Perry made in three out of three then Cradley's Ayres and Perry cruised in heats 13 and 15, Lawlor and Dwyer emulating them in between.

## Hard-hitting from Bradley helps take Stour to fourth

HOSTING Nuneaton at the War Memorial Ground, Stourbridge recouped much needed points after losing two matches on the trot.

Put into bat Stour posted their highest score of the season – 294 for 4 off 55 overs. Foundations for a late onslaught were laid by Jujhar Johal (64) and Zain Ul Hassan. They took the score from 51 to 149 for three.

Hard hitting came from Matt Bradley who with Ul Hassan put on 81 off 48 balls. Ul Hassan was caught off Bradley Gledhill for 71 in the 51st over. Bradley scored his first hundred of the season off mere 42 balls, his ton included 10 sixes and four boundaries.

Nuneaton, at the bottom of Division Three of the Birmingham and District League, made a solid start. The first wicket of David Colkin fell on 69 in the 17th over caught in the gully off Jitesh Jivan-Patel. By the 27th over Stour had captured four wickets for 85 runs. Six overs were lost due to rain with 16 overs remaining. The winning draw pulled Stour into fouth position in division 3, 29 points behind the leaders Lichfield.

## Right royal do at tennis club doubles

Finalists Graham Whyley and Joan Bowles, left, and Shaun Ryder and Annabel Kuligowski

IN 1977, to celebrate the Queens Silver Jubilee, Wollaston Lawn Tennis Club started a mixed competition, run as a handicap tournament.

Muriel and Ted Wright donated original silver salvers for the tournament 40 years ago and ever since the competition, held around Wimbledon time, has seen the entry fee increase by only a penny per year.

This year's entry was therefore 40p and it was special since it has been 40 years since the queen celebrated her Silver Jubilee.

Tournament organiser John Cutler said "The spirit of the tournament lives on. With plenty of Union Jacks flying, the tournament was held in good weather.

"All Players played in a variety of red, white, and blue outfits."

The final was contested between Shaun Ryder and Annabel Kuligowski versus Graham Whyley and Joan Bowles.

Shaun and Annabel took the 2017 title and. after a toast to the Queen and presentation of trophies, a traditional afternoon tea was enjoyed by all.

# BEN BASQUES IN CYCLE GLORY

**A TEENAGE cycling ace has signalled a warning of his considerable potential by winning one of the most prestigious junior races on the planet.**

Wordsley's Ben Healy has only been competing on open roads for a few months and has spent much of the season juggling his passion for pedalling with revision for his GCSE exams.

But that has not stopped him clocking up no fewer than eight victories with his latest triumph one which has made the rest of the cycling world stand up and take note.

Healy, who races for the Oxford-based Zappi team, finished top of the general classification at the Junior Tour of the Basque Country, a five-day stage race which includes a host of top professionals among its former winners.

"We knew Ben was doing well and knew he had good form but even I have to admit it came as a big surprise to see him win," said delighted dad Brian.

### Proud

"The Junior Tour of the Basque Country is a very tough race which features the best young riders in the world. For Ben to win it is a tremendous achievement. We are very proud of him."

Healy's success was made all the more impressive by the fact he has also had to deal with setbacks and the increased pressure of exams during his standout season.

The 16-year-old was dropped from British Cycling's Olympic Mountain Biking Programme last Christmas and looked likely to have a relatively quiet year on the road.

But he picked up notable early season wins at Stourport Circuit events, before taking a stunning victory at the Halesowen Cycling Club road race in May, riding away from more experienced riders. His performances have been enough to see him move from a third to first category rider in the space of just a few months.

Ben Healy finished top of the general classification in the Junior Tour of Spain's Basque region

## Running in footsteps of Harriers legend

A GROUP of Dudley Kingswinford athletes took part in the Andy Holden Memorial five-mile race commemorating one of Tipton Harriers' finest athletes who represented Great Britain in the Munich Olympics and European Championships in 1972.

The host club got the big guns out for their own event and bagged most of the prizes but DK were certainly rubbing shoulders with them and holding their own in a rarefied field in a race that was a fast blast along the canal towpaths that Holden made his own when training throughout the 60s, 70s and 80s.

Stuart Perkins led the hoops home in ninth place in 27.45, Dave Norman was 17th in 29.25, Mark Homer 25th in 30.38, Steve Parr in 33.11. to take 39th place, Andrew Weaver 48th in 34.20 and John Andrews 74th in 37.07.

Despite coming back from a break in training Helen Tromans was 82nd overall in 43.44 in a Droitwich 10k, taking 1st place in her age group.

## Tank blasts way to his second win

RYAN Aston recorded a second successive victory with a well-earned points win over Cristian Hoskin-Gomez at the top of BCB Promotions' show on Sunday afternoon.

'Sunday Best' took place the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill and featured a host of Black Country boxers.

Aston, topping the bill, took on the tough Plymouth man for the second time and, again, came out on top. It was an entertaining affair with Hoskin-Gomez taking the fight to 'Tank'.

The Dudley middleweight didn't drop a round to record a 59-55 points win but was docked a point when referee Shaun Messer penalised him for holding.

Also on the card, Kingswinford's Danny Ball enjoyed a perfect start to his professional career. The super welterweight, whose brother Jamie was a Midlands Area Champion, stopped his Czech opponent inside the first round.

Martin Karbhel was hurt by a left hook to the body and a flurry of shots put him on the canvass. He failed to beat the count much to the delight of Ball's army of supporters.

Coseley's Tommy Ghent made a welcome return to the ring after four yearsl and looked, at times, as if he'd never been away. The 24 year-old welterweight recorded a 40-36 points shutout win against tough Bulgarian Teodor Nikolov. Old Hill's Manny Zaber was back in action after four months on the sidelines to record a 39-37 victory over Bristol's Harvey Hemsley.

## Old Halesonians get chance for revenge

OLD Halesonians face their old foes in the North Midlands Cup.

Bournville secured the county cup on the more tries rule after the sides were level at 25-25 in May's final at Dudley Kingswinford. They begin their defence with a re-run of last season's final in next season's quarter-finals and will have home advantage on the weekend of either August 26 or October 7.

In one of two preliminary rounds, Dudley Kingswinford travel to Hereford with the winners facing either Worcester Wanderers or Bromsgrove.

Cape Hill were drawn away to Birmingham & Solihull in the first round.

★★★

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